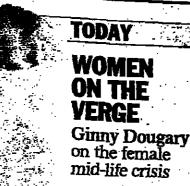
MONDAY

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SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1 1997



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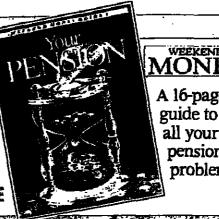


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Bid by ITV and Sky to run new service 30-channel TV goes on air

by next year

By Alexandra Frran and Eric Reguly

THREE of Britain's biggest commercial television companies and the BBC yesterday created a powerful alliance to launch a £300 million bid to run digital television that could see a total of 30 channels within 18 months.

The introduction of the new technology will bring an explosion of choice for British viewers, introducing multichannel television to the three quarters of British households which do not subscribe to cable or satellite television.

Viewers will not need either a satellite dish or a cable connection to receive the new digital terrestrial channels. The technology works by compressing television signals alowing scores of channels to occupy the wavelength currently taken up by the four will need to spend around £200 on a set-top decoder box incorporating a decoder. Some BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5 programming will be offered free but the other services could cost between £10 and £30 a month.

Carlton and Granada said that they and BSkyB were forming British Digital Broad-casting (BDB). The consortrum is offering 15 new paidfor digital terrestrial channels, including Sky Sports and two of Sky Television's movie

It has also signed a deal channels to launch a new 24-

Lost Ben Jonson

playlet is found

A lost playlet of 1609 by the

English dramatist Ben Jon-son, commissioned to cele-

brate and advertise the

opening of a shopping arcade along the Strand in central

London has been discovered

in the Public Record Office. It

had lain unneticed among

state papers donated 130 years

with BBC Worldwide, to carry four BBC branded channels, including a new pop music station. There will also be new entertainment, education and lifestyle channels. Michael Green, chairman

of Carlton and BDB, said: "By plugging into one simple settop box, viewers will be able to see all the existing terrestrial channels, new free channels, the latest movies, the best sport, the highest-quality drama as well as dedicated channels covering entertainment, food, lifestyle, music, shop-

ping and news.
"Going digital is the most important development for British television since the introduction of colour."

Mr Green added that the company expected to be profitable within five years.

A rival bid was yesterday submitted to the Independent Television Commission by the (DTN), owned by the cable company CableTel, which is offering up to 13 new enter-tainment, lifestyle, film, car-toon and documentary channels as well as an innovative text service.

In addition to the new paidfor channels to be run by either BDB or DTN, the BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Channel 5 and the Welsh channel S4C will also be running digital

The BBC is to use its digital

THE OJ Simpson civil trial

judge dismissed the only black

member of the jury yesterday and ordered them to begin

their deliberations from

scratch as jury-tampering alle-

gations were examined.
Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki gave
no explanation for the juror's

removal after three days of

deliberations except to say that

A source involved in the

trial said that the dismissed juror, a woman in her 60s,

was removed at the request of

Mr Simpson's lawyers. She

was replaced with an Asian-

Judge Fujisaki had met the

dismissed woman and one of

American man in his 30s.

it was for "legal cause".

hour television news service to rival Sky News and the American channel CNN. This will be available free. The Corpora-tion will also use digital tech-nology to transmit BBCI and BBC2 in a new cinema-style widescreen format, which offers higher quality picutres. It will have some spare capacity to offer education programmes.ITV and and Channel 4 are planning new entertainment, film and education channels.

Although Carlton, Granada and BSkyB already have a dominant position in the market, the government is not expected to block the bid on competition grounds. Virginia Bottomley the heritage secretary is keen to get digital television off the ground as

quickly as possible. She said: These bids offer viewers the prospect of enhanced quality and range of ment the free-to-air programming already announced by the BBC.

"The povernment took the position during the passage of the Broadcasting Act that it was providing a framework to allow DTT to be delivered by the market. Today's news shows that the industry has embraced that vision."

City analysts yesterday tipped the BDB bid to win.

Digital revolution, page 7 Tempus, page 30

hearing that a literary agent

had sent them a letter written

by two members of the jury

from Mr Simpson's criminal

trial Brenda Moran, one of

the criminal trial jurors, has

admitted signing the letter, but she said yesterday that it

was an innocent offer of

support containing no men-

tion of money or advice how to

vote in the civil case.
Judge Fujisaki made clear

yesterday that he regarded any contact with his jurors as

tantamount to tampering. Mr

Simpson, who was acquitted

in October 1995 of murdering

his former wife and her friend.

is fighting a wrongful-death

civil action brought by the

OJ jury ordered to

start all over again

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES



Signora Martinelli waits in a police car after being arrested at her Milan flat yesterday

Gucci's ex-wife charged with plotting his murder

From Richard Owen in rome

THE blood-stained saga of feuds within the Gucci fashion dynasty took a twist that astonished even Italians yesterday when the former wife of Maurizio Gucci, the last family member to hold shares in the company, was charged with ordering his murder two years ago with the help of her

psychic adviser". Patrizia Martinelli, a vivacious darkhaired woman of 49, was arrested at her flat in Milan after a 22-month investigation by Carlo Nocerino, the chief Milan prosecutor. She was charged with four other people, including her clairvoy-ant, 51-year-old Giuseppina Auriemma, from Naples, who was accused of helping to organise the crime, a hotel doorman, Ivano Savioni, whose alleged role was not made clear, and two alleged

hitmen. Maurizio Gucci, heir to the fashion empire founded as a humble saddle-and-leather business in Florence by his grandfather, Guccio Gucci. was shot four times at point blank range with a _32 calibre

pistol outside the Gucci offices involved in a bitter divorce in Milan on the morning of settlement. March 27, 1995. Ottavio Aragona, the deputy chief of (and counterfeited) on some of police in Milan, said the the world's most prized shoes, killing had been carried out by two professional hitmen, named as Orazio Cicala, 58 handbags, and other designer goods, became a byword for the yuppie boom of the 1980s. who is already in jail on unrelated drugs charges --and Benedetto Ceraulo, 35. But behind the famous name lies a trail of family feuding, often violent and always acri-The deputy police chief said monious. The firm was ran for many years by Paolo Gucci,

Signora Martinelli had paid the gunmen \$310,000 (£193,750) to carry out the murder of her ex-husband. with whom she had been



Police arrest Benedetto Ceraulo, who faces a murder charge

Major seeks to extend ownership of shares

JOHN MAJOR yesterday unveiled a range of proposals to give people a bigger stake in Britain's prosperity through a massive expansion of share ownership and greater use of personal pensions.

The Prime Minister used his second presidential-style press conference this year to announce plans to get people to rely less on state provision; to help small businesses and the self-employed, and to cut red tape. He also revealed a new scheme — Sharematch — to encourage businesses to offer free shares to more of their workforce.

He said the proposals would cost nothing, although Labour priced them at be-tween £600 million and £1.5 billion.

As general election fever escalated at Westminster, party sources also disclosed that the Wirral South by-election would be on February 27.

Mr Major, in a confident and relaxed mood, dismissed The Times Mori poll showing that Labour had a 25 per cent lead as "rubbish". He said the shown a different story.

He teased reporters over the general election by claiming he had never said May I was his preferred date. He said he knew when he would call the election but no-one else did. In an attempt to regain the initiative after confused re-

ports from Monday's political cabinet, Mr Major said his manifesto programme would include many "eye-catching" innovations. "It will be radical in improving people's lives, but offer stability to the na-

tion." He said a number of announcements would be made in the run-up to the election and during the campaign. "Our aim is for every-one to have a people's share in our enterprise economy."

By the turn of the century he hoped that half of all employees would own shares or options in their companies. "Already around 2 million people own a share in the company they work for through employee share schemes. My aim is a massive expansion in those numbers."

The most eye-catching proposal announced is the share ownership. Mr Major said the Government planned to relax Inland Revenue rules which now restrict share offers by companies. Treasury sources said many companies wished to offer fewer free shares in return for greater investment. At the moment, companies have to offer one free share for each share paid for. "Some would like to offer one share for every five or

In future, companies will be able to offer shares to more of their employees in return for

greater investment. 'Many companies would like to give employees free shares when the employee invests money of his or her own," said Mr Major. "I intend to change the rules to help more companies to top up their employees investment in shares with free shares from the company."

Share reforms, page 2

Lords' vote backs EU withdrawal

By ALICE THOMSON AND JAMES LANDALE

PEERS last night supported a Bill which would withdraw Britain from the European Union. The House of Lords voted by 52 to 51 to give a second reading to the Bill aimed at restoring the sovereignty of the British Parlia-ment over European law.

More than 25 peers, includ-ing Lord Tebbit, the former Tory Party Chairman, spoke in favour of the European Communities (Amendment) Bill, introduced by the Tory Eurosceptic, Lord Pearson of Rannoch. Baroness Thatcher, the former Prime Minister, gave her tacit support by attending and nodding vigorously during Eurosceptic speeches, but did not speak.

The Bill would reneal sections two and three of the 1972 European Communities Act under which EU law was made superior to British legislation. It has no chance of becoming law.

Lord Pearson said it was probably the first time that a parliament in Europe had voted for withdrawal.

Lord Tebbit said the history of the EU was analogous to rugby. Year by year, we who defend national sovereignty are being pushed back. It's time that the ball was kicked very long and very hard back the other way, preferably back into touch for a while."

Debate, page 11

The Times on the Internet

http://www.the-times.co.uk

her colleagues on the jury after victims' families. WEATHER EROSSWORD. COURT & SOCIAL24

LETTERS	
OBITUARIES	25
SIMON JENKINS	22

BUSINESS NEWS.....27-30, 44, 45 **WEEKEND MONEY......31-43**

The Gucci label, carried

another grandson of the

founder, until he was ousted

after a series of hysterical

GARDENING: WEEKEND4, 5, 7 PROPERTY: WEEKEND......9 TRAVEL: WEEKEND.....15-24

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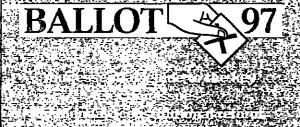
NEWCASTLE **v LEICESTER**

Will the Dalglish magic work?

BATTLE OF THE FIVE NATIONS

Reports on England v Scotland Wales v Ireland





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Brown rules out blank cheque for public sector pay

GORDON BROWN, the Shadow Chancellor, said yeserday that there would be no blank cheques, after disclosures that pay review bodies covering 1.3 million public sector workers had recommended above-inflation increases of between 3.2 and 3.4 per cent for next year.

Unions were furious at reports that the Government was prepared to phase in the awards and said that they would expect a Conservative or Labour government to pay the awards in full. Geoff Martin, London con-

venor of the public sector workers' union Unison, said that union members might cause trouble in the first weeks of a Labour government, "It must be implemented. It is a challenge to an incoming Labour government," he said, "I think there will be a lot of anger if it isn't. I don't think our members will let us keep

Leftwing MPs also put pressure on Mr Brown to honour the recommendations. Jeremy Corbyn, Labour MP for Islington North, said: "Labour must recognise that if there is to be any justice in our society then the worst-off public sector employees deserve substantial

pay rises."

However, in a series of interviews yesterday Mr. Brown refused to rule out phasing in the awards and made clear that he would not implement the recommendations if they exceeded current departmental spending targets. He also insisted that he would not bow to union ity chiefs said yesterday that demands on pay. Although the health service will not be Labour has criticised the able to afford the awards

employees.

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cashback.

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already?

THE TSB

MORTGAGE

CHALLENGE

According to the Govern-

ment's latest earnings survey.

the five million workers in the

public sector earn an average

£355.00 a week while private

sector earnings are £351.60.

Employees in both sectors saw

an average pay increase of just

Employees covered by the

public sector pay review bod-

ies — standing committees

which set pay rates each year

– number about 1.3 million.

They include 230,000 service

personnel, 130,000 doctors

over 4 per cent in 1996.



Brown: refused to rule out phasing pay awards

Tories for phasing in such awards. Mr Brown made clear he would do the same if

We have got to look at the position at the time. There may be circumstances in which you don't need to stage and there may be circumtold BBC radio 4. The Cabinet will discuss the

recommendations, which are well above the Government's pay ceiling, next Thursday but it is expected to decide to phase in the awards over nine months to lower the cost. Last year, a 4 per cent overall pay rise was effectively reduced to 3.3 per cent after the awards were staged, in April and December, and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, has made clear that he will pursue an equally vigorous line this year. However, health author-

crackdown by Chancellor

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

After the review bodies have

reported to the Prime Minis-

ter, the Government decides

how to implement their rec-

ommendations - whether to

pay them in full, or stage them

In 1993, most review body

groups received rises of 1.5 per

cent, and about 3 per cent the

following year. In 1995 the

increases were again about 3

per cent, while last year the

range was higher, with nurses

getting 2 per cent plus extra

money locally, doctors 3.8 to

civil servants, judges a

vice chiefs.

to cut the cost.

you've been naughty. Either way,

you should still have a bit left

over. So take up the challenge

PUBLIC sector pay levels are and dentists, 480,000 nurses

still ahead of pay in the private and medical professionals.

sector, despite five years of 470,000 teachers and 2,000 top

unless they are met by the Government in full. Mr Brown refused to comment on the detailed pay review body recommenda-tions until he had seen the official figures. He said he was aware that pay levels had to be set to be able to recruit and retain staff, but that this should be done within tough cash limits. Labour will take a firm and

fair approach to public sector pay," he told a business conlerence in London yesterday. "Decisions will be made with a view to retain, recruit and motivate staff. But these must be made within tough cash limits. With Labour, all public sector pay agreements must be financed from within the agreed departmental cash limits upon which departments must now plan."
It is understood the pay

review bodies have recommended an average 3.3 per cent award for nurses and the armed forces, about 3.25 per cent for teachers and about 3.4 per cent for doctors. It is also understood that the nurses review body has decided to revert to a one-off across the board rise rather than top-ups

being negotiated locally.

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers said teachers were at risk of being used as human pawns on the general election chess board. "I would expect Labour to honour these rec-ommendations in full. Rodney Bickerstaffe. Unison general secretary, said that whichever government was in power, they should honour the

6.8 per cent, and teachers and

the Armed Forces 3.8 per cent.

The Government decided

to stage the awards in the

last two election years. But the

cost of not doing so before the

1992 election proved to be so

high that the Government

announced the first year of the

current series of pay policies,

with a 1.5 per cent pay limit. This has been followed by

successive paybill freezes.

These have not meant nil

increases, but instead have

seen rises funded from im-

proved efficiency and perfor-

mance. These have allowed

some public sector groups to

secure big rises, pushing up

THE Conservatives' plans Earnings escalate despite

The existing "buy one and get one free" rule limits companies to matching the number of shares bought by employees in profit-sharing schemes. In future, companies would be allowed to offer free shares for every three or five held by employees.

The Government is also interested in expanding savings-related (SAYE) share option schemes by giving companies more flexibility in the conditions they im-



Share reforms would be part of salary deals

for extended share ownership and greater access to personal pension plans are intended to become part of an employee's normal employment package.

Launching the Share-

match" initiative, the Prime Minister said that he would relax Inland Revenue rules to enable companies to top up their employees' invest-ment in shares with free shares. Sources at the Treasury said this could encompass 4.5 million people and would counteract the phased withdrawal of profit-related people receive.

pose before letting employees join. There are currently 1.500 SAYE schemes, enabling employees to save between £5 and £250 a month in order to buy discounted shares in the company at a future date.

John Major also promised reforms to allow people to continue contributing to personal pensions when they joined a company scheme. This would enable them to benefit from employer's contributions. Group personal pensions would be made easier to administer to encourage more firms to offer

Harriet Harman. Shadow Secretary of State for Social Security, said: Tory reform of pensions has meant that millions of people have lost out and millions more do not have adequate arrangements."

Leading figures in the pensions industry said they wanted to see radical changes, such as scrapping the 17.5 per cent earnings cap on contributions.

Weekend Money, pages 31-

NEWS IN BRIEF Challenge on Adams banning dismissed

An attempt by Gerry Adams and Tony Benn to challenge the Government in the European Court of Human Rights "manifestly ill-founded".

The European Commission of Human Rights, which vets applications to the Strasbourg court, said the complaint by the Sinn Fein president and the former Labour Cabinet minister about Mr Adams's exclusion from Britain under the Prevention of Terrorism Act was "inadmissible". In September 1993 Mr Benn had invited Mr Adams to address MPs and journalists at the House of Commons. The Home Secretary signed an exclusion order under the Act. banning Mr Adams from entering Britain.

Suspect held

Victor Farrant, 46, was remanded in custody until Monday by Portsmouth magi-strates after being extradited from France, charged with the murder and attempted murder of two women. Mr Farrant. who was detained in Nice in July, flew into Britain with four detectives.

Forsyth ruling

Three Court of Appeal judges reserved their ruling over the conviction of Elizabeth Forsyth, former aide to disgraced Polly Peck chief Asil Nadir. Renewing her bail granted on Thursday, Lord Justice Bel-dam said that whatever the judges' ruling. Miss Forsyth would not return to jail.

Irish BSE alert

Eleven new cases of BSE have been confirmed among cattle in the Irish Republic during January. All of the herds, as well as animals in contact with the cattle involved, will be destroyed. There were 74 incidents during the whole of last year, compared with 16 in

Gunmaker jailed

Denis Lindop, an engineer who made sub-machine guns in a factory hidden behind his garage in Holywood, Co Down, was jailed yesterday for 10 years by Beliast Crown Court after admitting unlawful possession of 68 guns and a large quantity of ammunition. and manufacturing guns.

Operations ban

All routine operations at five hospitals run by Brighton Health Care NHS Trust have been cancelled until the end of March because of an upsurge in emergency admissions. It is expected that by then at least 500 patients will have been waiting more than a year for

Royal funeral

The Duke of Edinburgh and the Prince of Wales were at the funeral in Darmstadt yesterday of the Princess of Hesse and the Rhine. Born the Hon Margaret Geddes in Dublin in 1913, the Princess died at her German home, the last survivor of the house of Hesse-Darmstadt.

PoW hopes fade

Jeremy Hanley, a Foreign Office Minister, ruled out further help for 10,000 former prisoners of the Japanese in the last war yesterday. He told Denis MacShane, a Labour MP, that the Government would not help them pursue a claim for additional compensation.

Saunders refusal

A ruling by the European Court of Human Rights, that the use of Trade Department evidence in the trial of the former Guinness chief Ernest Saunders was unfair, did not provide grounds for the case to be sent back to the Appeal Court, said Baroness Blatch, the Home Office Minister.

Blair plans secret talks with activists to woo green vote

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR is to have secret talks with leaders of environmental groups as part of a new Labour strategy amid fears that the party is losing out in a key election area.

The plans, including a big speech by the Labour leader on the environment, follow concern that the party is underplaying the importance of the environmentalist vote especially among young peo-ple, first-time voters and women in Tory marginals, after an analysis of polls.

The party's National Executive Committee discussed the matter this week, with both Mr Blair and Gordon Brown speaking about the importance of getting a more effective green message over to the

Last week Charles Secrett. head of Friends of the Earth, criticised the Labour Party, and echoed the fears of many leading environmentalists that a Labour government might be less green than the current Conservative one. Mr Secrett said that voters were in

danger of putting in office a party of "political lightweights and cowards" on green issues. He said that environmentalist groups were espeically worried about some of the Shadow Chancellor's tax plans. Mr Brown has said he that wants to reduce the rate of VAT on fuel, which many green campaigners believe sends the wrong signal to the public about saving energy

Heads of environmental groups believe the party's document on the environ-

and cutting greenhouse gas

is a visionary document. But they fear that it might may never be translated into hard policies by a Labour government especially in areas of tax Mr Blair has responded by

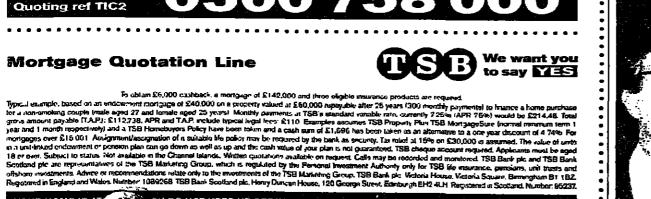
ordering Peter Mandelson. Labour's campaigns director. to increase the prominence of party pronouncements on the environment and give more support to Michael Meacher. Labour's spokesman, senior party sources said yesterday. The Labour leader has told his front bench team that the

environment must be a central Labour politicians have also been told to try to make more

references to green issues in their speeches about green

Leading article, page 23

now, call TSB PhoneBank free on been good. Or settle some bills if the number below for a quotation. Gucci ex-wife on murder plot charge CALL FREE



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Maurizio Gucci: often skated close to illegality Continued from page 1 boardroom rows by his cousin Maurizio, who held a 50 per cent share inherited from his

Maurizio often skated close to illegality as he ran the company into debt, and at one stage was successfully sued by relatives for forging his father's signature. The conviction was quashed, and he resumed the chairmanship. In 1993 he sold his holdings for a reported £1 million to a Bahrain-based company which had already bought out other relatives. Two years later Maurizio was shot in the street, just as he was trying to

salvage his finances by invest-

ing in a casino in Switzerland. The arrest of Signora Martinelli yesterday dominated Italian TV news, which showed poignant shots of her weeping at Maurizio's funeral Milan police declined to speculate on why she might have ordered the killing, but said that there had been bitter disagreements over his alimony payments, and over their two children. There were also reports that she was jealous

of her husband's mistress. The prevalent theory at the time of his death was that his murder was linked to his huge debts (despite selling his Gucci stake) and his investment in the casino in Switzerland. America.

Other theories focused on his failure to repay an Italian-American syndicate with Mafia links, and his debts to Delfo Zorzi, a businessman suspected of involvement in the 1993 Mafia bombing of a Milan bank. But Maurizio appears also to have been involved with several "clairvoyants" some of whom

Since the murder, the new Bahrain-based owners of Gucci. Investoorp, have restored the company's fortunes under its new chairman, Domenico De Sole, former managing director of Gucci Suspect

LUISHER

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A fast flight to fair from life in the bus lane



IT IS being hailed as one of the most meteoric rises in modelfine history. A young woman from Swindon, who until this week appeared on bus-shelter poster adverts for double-glazing, is to-day preparing to fly to Los Angeles to be photographed alongside Hollywood's most famous swimsuit queen, Pamela Anderson.

Melinda Messenger, 22, has become an overnight tabloid sensation after being photographed semi-naked in two titles — The Sun and the Daily Star. Both have fought an unprecedented battle to claim her as their own, proclaiming her the new Samantha Fox and a national heroine.

Miss Messenger, who has not given up her full-time job as a customer services accounts manager for a marketing firm in Swindon, had modelled only the once, smiling from behind a glass pane in bra and pants, advertising Glevum Windows in Gloucester.

But when local newspapers, including the Hereford Journal and the Swindon Evening Advertiser, refused to carry the bus-stop advert on the grounds it was too explicit, Richard Goad, marketing manager at Glevum Windows, saw the chance for free publicity. With one phone call to the Daily Star, Melinda Messenger's fame was secured.

"Page 3 girl for the Thrillenium," trilled The Sun. "Ohh aah ... Melindaah", trumpeted the Daily Star. Within 24 hours, her name was on the lips of a million brickies and long distance lorry drivers, and newspapers were asking for her political riews. (She will vote Labour).

The posters adverts were torn from bus shelters in Gloucester by devoted fans. Last night, it ap-



Anderson: "fantastic but not a role model'

peared that The Sun had won the battle to sign her up. Executives were severishly trying to set up a photoshoot in Los Angeles with Mis Anderson, the former

Yvonne Paul, the modelling agent who represented such successes as Samantha Fox and Kathy Lloyd, said the potential earning power of the new 34DD star was now into the millions. "We have handled a lot of girls like Kathy Lloyd, who reached the top earning capacity. I would like to think Melinda can do the same.

"She has got an eternal look, like Brigitte Bardot. But I don't want her to be thought of as the new Sam Fox or the new Pamela Anderson. She is Melinda Messenger.

Miss Messenger has 11 GCSEs but says they are irrelevant. She thinks Ms Anderson is "fantastic but not a role model". On her new

opportunity, a once in a lifetime chance. I just happened to be in the right place at the right time, which was Swindon for once.

Being a Page 3 girl was never an aspiration of mine, but I'd look at the girls and think all the old cliches about it being a great lifestyle with all that travel and money. It's meant to brighten up people's days and give a lift to the working man, or whoever else wants to look at it."

Asked about the General Election, she added: "I hope Labour gets in I have always voted Labour, though I suppose I used to do it in a more idealistic way. Now it's a matter of becoming a realist. because it looks as though there really is a change in political colours on the horizon."

The Sun took its new trophy to the premiere party for John Cleese's new film Fierce Creatures, where she was pictured with Mr Cleese, Michael Palin and

Angus Deayton.
Miss Messenger lives at home in Swindon with her mother Avis, who was divorced from her father when she was five. Her father Terry, 48, a retired WH Smith executive, clearly had no fears about his daughter's new career move. To prove it, he too stripped off for yesterday's Daily Star, alongside his son Jamie, a

paragliding instructor.

Mr Messenger said: "I am absolutely thrilled for her, very proud. I could cry with joy, to be honest. She is a wonderful looking girl and she has a lovely personality. We are taping her on Sky TV.
"When she was a little girl I

hoped that she would become a gymnast. She was always a tomboy, climbing everything and



Miss Messenger: "For once, Swindon was the place to be"

Judge refuses to return abused pony to owner

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A JUDGE refused to return a neglected Welsh pony to its owner vesterday and instead said the charity that rescued it from starvation could look

Animal lovers cheered as Target, a four-year-old Welsh stallion, could stay with the Society for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies, which had refused to hand it back to its owner, Anthony Probert, after he was convicted of

Mr Probert had sued for the return of the pony, which is now fully restored to health, and said he needed it for breeding purposes. But yesterday after hearing that when Target was rescued the animal was so weak it could not stand up and are wood shavings from hunger, the judge said the charity could keep the horse and pay Mr Probert

£250 damages.
'I am anxious that the law is not made to look an ass, although it may end up look-ing that way," Judge Evans told Pontypool County Court to laughter from the public

gallery. Animal lovers had collected a 40,000-name pention backing the charity's refusal to return Target. The court was told that RSPCA inspectors found the horse weak and starving in a field near Abergavenny. Monmouthshire. They had to stretcher it away as it could not stand and it was placed in the care of the

Monmouth-based society, which restored it to health. It has since kept Target hidden. Mr Probert was fined £1,200 by Pontypool magistrates lastyear but told the judge he still did not accept he had neglect-Judge John Evans ruled that · ed Target. He said that the horse charity and the RSPCA had ignored a magistrates court order that the animal should be returned.

"I am accusing the RSPCA and the society of conspiring together to pervert the course of justice and to steal from me this four-year-old Welsh stallion. he said.

Mr Probert said he estimated the pony's value now at about £800 and wanted it back

for breeding purposes.

Gardon Bebb, for the Horse Society, told the judge: "If that horse is returned to Mr Probert it faces exactly the same fate as it suffered in the past; malnutrition and a disgraceful upkeeping."

After the day long hearing, Alisdair MacGregor, a trustee of the horse charity, said it had won a moral victory. "We are delighted because the whole point of our action was that people who have been convicted of neglecting ani-mals should not have a second chance of doing it," he said. "Very few people at the beginning of our battle gave us much of a chance but we were determined that Target would be protected and would

not have to go back to an

owner who had so obviously

neglected him."

Eyes down as student wins bingo fellowship

By JOHN O'LEARY

A MOTHER of three who paid her way through college by working in a bingo club has won Britain's first academic fellowship to study the

Faith Freestone, who is about to complete a doctorate on hingo, will spend two years researching the reasons behind the game's popularity and gambling among women. The Bingo Associ-ation of Great Britain has put up half the £12,000 cost of a post at Worcester College of Higher Education.

Bingo has been hit hard by the National Lottery, with 75 of the 800 licensed clubs closing and profits dropping by a third in the past two years. But national games with prizes of up to £250,000 have helped to attract a younger generation of players, many of whom are male.

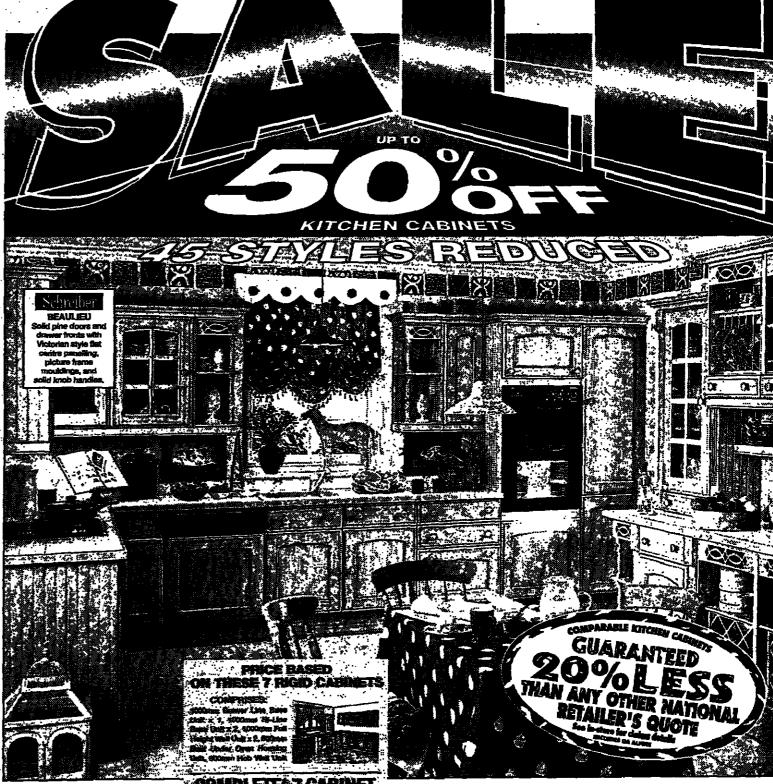
Ms Freestone is unrepentant about her choice of subject, despite academic snobbery. "Millions of people play this game, which is the most popular pastine in Britain after augling, so there should be some proper research on which to base

policy decisions.
"People bave always mocked it, but a part of me feels that anything that is female-dominated is automatically devalued."

But her expertise has not helped her in other ways. "In all the years I have been playing bingo I have only had two wins, of £5 and £10."

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Nobel poet discloses his despair at Bloody Sunday

BY NICHOLAS WATT

SEAMUS HEANEY, the Nobel prizewinning Irish poet, has marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of Bloody Sunday by releasing a previously unpublished poem describing his despair at the shootings.

In The Road to Derry.

written a quarter of a century ago. Professor Heaney describes his anguish as he drove from Belfast to his home city for the funerals of the 13 unarmed men who were shot dead by paratroopers on January 30, 1972

Professor Heaney, 57, who was born in Londonderry and educated at the city's St Columb's College, wrote the four verses at the request of Luke Kelly, the late singer with the Irish ballad group The Dubliners. The poet suggested setting the verses to the melody of The Boys of

Mullaghbawn. Professor Heaney told the Derry Journal that Kelly never recorded the song. He said: "I spoke to Lake about it on one occasion and I remember him saying that he thought the

On a Wednesday morning early I took the road to Derry Along Glenshane and Foreglen and the cold woods of Hillhead; A wet wind in the hedges and a dark cloud on the mountain And flags like black frost mourning that the thirteen men were

The Roe wept at Dungisen and the Fople cried out to heaven, Burntollet's old wound opened and again the Bogside bled; By Shipquay Gate I shwered and by Lone Moor I enquired Where I might find the coffins where the thirteen men lay dead.

My heart besieged by anger, my mind a gap of danger, I walked among their old haunts, the home ground where they bled; And in the dirt lay justice like an acorn in the winter Till its oak would sprout in Derry where the thirteen men lay dead.

air I had suggested was too slow. Anyway, I think it is in order to reprint this version now." He has released only the first two and the last

Seamus Deane, the awardwinning author from the Bogside who was shortlisted for this year's Booker Prize, is taking part in this weekend's commemorative events in the city and will read from his works at a community centre this afternoon. He said in the

Derry Journal that Bloody Sunday showed that a "rightwing. Tory-Unionist faction" believed, and still believes, in "coercion and cosmetic re-

form in Northern Ireland. He wrote: There will be no apology for Bloody Sunday; the only sorrow to be found in Tory or Unionist breasts is that it was not successful as an

> Picking up the Picces. Magazine, page 16

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Lip-reading computer will help the big noises in the City

TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A COMPUTER that can lip-read has been developed by British scientists in a breakthrough that could take humans and machines into new realms. Researchers at the University of East Anglia in Norwich have developed a system that can recognise letters and words, even when uttered by someone with a large moustache. The development, by a team in the university's school of informa-

tion systems, is part of a world-numbers one to ten, whereas the wide race to develop computers able to interact with humans without the need of a traditional keyboard. The applications could be limitless in businesses such as banking, security surveillance, city dealing rooms and home

Dr Andrew Bangham, one of the scientists behind the breakthrough, said yesterday that their lip-reading computer and camera appeared to be in the lead. The nearest rival can lip-read only the

Norwich model has been taught to recognise numbers and the entire alphabet.

The system, which uses a new mathematical strategy to detect the letter or word being spoken by measurements of the mouth, has been developed to complement speech recognition computers that are already on the market, such as one from IBM and another from the American company Drugon.

These are considered to have

limits that lip-reading should help

that speech recognition computers were really accurate only in silent rooms with the speaker holding the microphone right up the mouth. If the room becomes noisy, as in

to overcome. Dr Bangham said

most daily uses, the accuracy plummets. Lip-reading should boost the accuracy despite the noise of real life. Dr Bangham likened it to ask-

ing someone if they would like a drink at a noisy cocktail party: "You can understand their reply

even if you can't hear them very well, because human beings use a lot of visual cues in understanding conversations."

Tests have found that speech recognition has an accuracy of 87 per cent. If the British system is asked to lip-read, the accuracy is 40 per cent. But the real value is when the two different systems are combined in a simulation of a

The accuracy of speech recognition in a noisy room is 25 per cent or less, but lip-reading is unaffected by the noise. Dr Bangham said: "If you use a combination of the visual and the speech recognition. then your accuracy rate goes up to about 60 per cent in a noisy

environment He said that the development was made possible by a new mathematical strategy. Rival systems try to fit the speaker's mouth and its shape to computer-generaled lips in order to assess the word or letter being uttered. However, this can be problem, especally in challenging cases, such as when

the person who is speaking has a large moustache or an inexpressive mouth.

The Norwich computer makes about ten measurements of the mouth. The total measurements differ depending on the letter or word that is being spoken. The computer then decides what is

being said. Dr Bangham said they were training the computer to boost the accuracy further, by presenting it with the speech patterns of both men and women.

Exotic shopping centre heralded in play to catch the consumer-consciousness of a king

Rediscovered: work of art that blessed the mall

By Dalya Alberge ARTS CORRESPONDENT

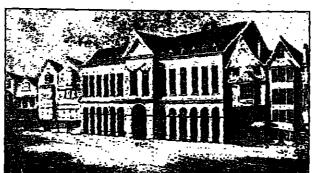
A LOST playlet of 1609 by the English dramatist Ben Jonson, commissioned to celebrate and advertise the opening of a shopping arcade along the Strand in central London, has been discovered in the Public Record Office.

A dusty, scrappy four-page manuscript of the short comedy play, or masque, was identified by James Knowles, a lecturer at Newcastle University who specialises in 17thcentury drama. It had lain unnoticed among state papers donated 130 years ago to the Record Office. It was commissioned to trumpet the opening of an arcade that disappeared in the mid 19th century.

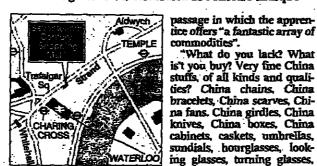
Jonson (1572-1637), author of Volpone and The Alchemist and regarded by many of his contemporaries as Shakespeare's equal, wrote the masque for The New Exchange otherwise known as Britain's Burse |an obsolete form of "bourse", "a highclass shopping-mall with a milliner's, a haberdasher's, a bookshop and shops for Chinese porcelain", to which lines in his masque refer. King James 1, and an audience of 100 from his court, attended its solitary performance.

Dr Knowles said: "It is very exciting to think more Jonson is to be found out there. It's as good as patches of The

The two-storey Burse, he said, housed up to 30 shops.



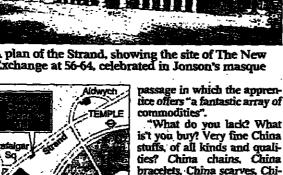
A plan of the Strand, showing the site of The New



work, headed The Key Keeper, "a comic harangue of welcome" to James I, is the exoticism and excitement of the shops. "It's a consumerist masque saying that shopping is wonderful." Dr Knowles

The 20-minute piece is written in prose, which Dr Knowles noted as unusual for Jonson, and was staged by three players in the roles of a merchant, an apprentice and a key keeper. He picked out a

Exchange at 56-64, celebrated in Jonson's masque



cabinets, caskets, umbrellas, sundials, hourglasses, looking glasses, turning glasses, concave glasses, triangular glasses, convex glasses, crysglobes, waxen pictures, Estrich eggs, Birds of Paradise, Muskads, Indian mice, Indian rats, China dogs and China cats? lan Donaldson, who is preparing a Jonson biogra-

phy for Oxford University Press and who has edited his poetry and prose for various editions, noted that the passage about "China stuffs" reminiscent of lines from Bartholomew Fair, a work of 1614: "What do you lack? Fiddles o' th' finest."

Scholars knew of the work's existence from contemporary documents, including a report by the Venetian Ambassador and a bill detailing, for example, the keeper's costume: it included buskins, a cassock, doublet, breeches, an old man's beard, hair and

nightcap.
The manuscript, Knowles said, is not in Jonson's handwriting but a contemporary copy. It was enclosed in a letter to Sir Edward Conway (1564-1631), a collector of manuscripts and later Secretary of State under James I and Charles I. "He liked to collect poetry, masques and works of political significance. This masque has political significance, commenting on the American and Far Eastern trade."

The arcade was built by an unknown architect for Robert Cecil, 1st Earl of Salisbury: an early, unexecuted design by Inigo Jones survives in Oxford, and a drawing by Robert Smythson gives an impression of the actual Burse, Cecil got his secretary, Thomas Wilson, to supervise the project. Wilson reported to him on March 31, 1609: "The

sons only actors, according to your concert." The Ambassador also described the building "Hard by the Court, the Earl of Salisbury has built two great galleries, decorated, especial-



Ben Jonson, whose manuscript is "as good as The Alchemist" in parts

ly outside, with much carving and sculpture. Inside each of these galleries, on either hand, are rows of shops for the sale of all kinds of goods. These will bring an immense

John Sargent, senior librar-

ian at the City of Westminster Archives Centre, whose collection includes references to the Burse, pinpointed the original site to 56-64 Strand, on its south side. Today, its occupants include the solicitors Fishburn Boxer, Top Shop.

Pizza Hut and the Halifax Building Society. An essay by Dr Knowles on the masque is published in The Times Literary Supplement on Friday.

Leading article, page 23

Councillors scrap grant for gay trip

COUNCIL leaders withdrew an education grant for a youth group's "gay weekend" in Amsterdam yesterday. Camden Council, which is planning school budget cuts of £4 million, had previously granted £500 to send ten homosexuals to the Dutch capital to "experience holding hands in the street without

feeling fear". The young men aged 17 to 24 belong to the Male Out Group of Somers Town, run by the north London Labour council. They had applied to an education subcommittee for travel expenses, saying: The trip will be to enable young men to experience an environment where lesbian and gay sexuality is equally valid as heterosexual expression."

through the application as part of its £28,000 funding for youth groups. But the Labour group reconsidered the decision after criticism from opposition councillors. spokesman said: "It was felt

The subcommittee nodded

that it was not an appropriate way to spend funds given the restriction on resources."

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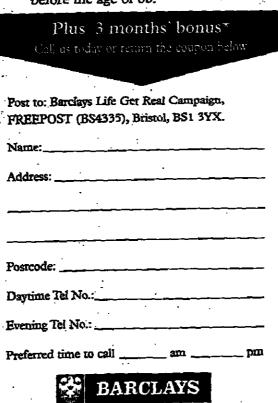
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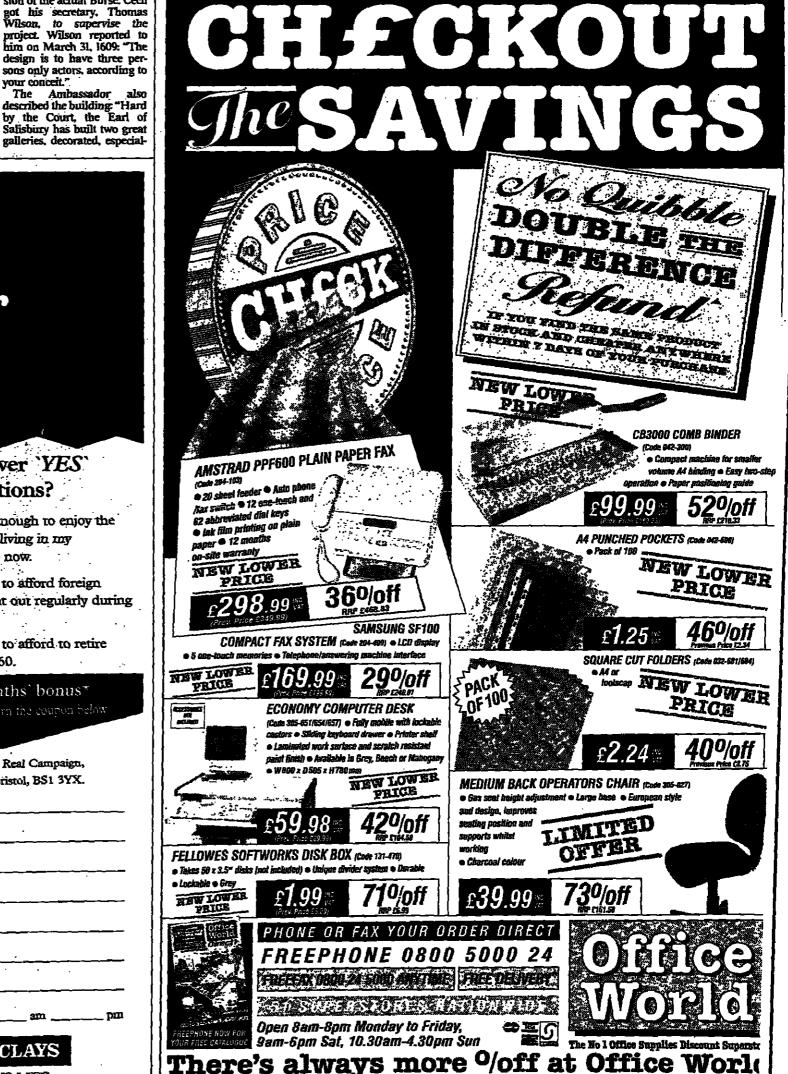
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THE TIMES SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1 1997

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TV rivals signal start of digital revolution



Room with a view: TV stations will be able to put out dozens of channels

Price of more choice will be the spread of pay-per-view

By Alexandra Frean, media correspondent

TWO RIVAL consortia entered the race yesterday for the digital frequencies which will allow television viewers to receive up to 30 additional paid-for channels on existing

The ITV companies Carlton and Granada have banded together with the satellite television company BSkyB to form British Digital Broad-casting (BDB). The company is planning to offer 15 paid-for digital television channels. A rival bid for digital frequencies has been submitted to the Independent Television Commission by the cable company

The ITC could decide to split the spectrum available between BDB and DTN, although this may affect the financial viability of both services. It is expected to announce the successful bid in

the spring or summer of 1998. Nigel Walmsley, chairman of Carlton UK Television, said that it had been important to put together an alliance with some of the strongest players and programme line-ups. "If you want to kick-start the engine, you have to put a lot of juice in the tank," he said.

A third bid for a separate part of the digital spectrum was also submitted yesterday This service is required to carry S4C's Welsh television service and the new Channel It will also be providing programming from ITN and the American cable television operator Turner Broadcasting

Digital technology bring a vast expansion of forms of income for broadcastbroadcasting will eventually be replaced, requiring all viewers to replace their set or grammes can arrive via cable,

buy a set-top box decoder. Digital broadcasting compresses broadcasting signals, allowing several channels to be transmitted in the space previously used by one. It will also provide cinema-style,

wide-screen pictures. An Electronic Programme Guide (EPG) built into the settop boxes will provide onscreen listings to help viewers decide between the myriad channels on offer. Eventually, EPGs will allow audiences to construct their



Walmsley: Carlton chief also heads BDB

schedules.Colin Banfield, of the Information Technology consultancy firm Logica, said: Digital broadcasting will also allow people to watch more than one channel simultaneously. For sports programmes, it will enable viewers to chose camera

It is forecast that the transition to digital will be complete introduced in 1998. Eventually, analogue broadcasts will be switched off.

Digital television

Canada-

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satellite or conventional roof-top aerials. There is likely to be a struggle for dominance between operators of all three. Digital terrestrial services should be available later next year. Viewers will need to buy a decoder box, for £200 to £400, but they will not need a dish or a new aerial. The BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Channel 5 and the Welsh Channel S4C and Teletext will be broadcast on digital terrestrial television and will be available free. Space has been reserved on

programming to be broadcast in Scotland. The BBC's digital broadcasts of BBC1 and BBC2 will be in cinema-style wide-screen format. The BBC also plans to use its digital capacity to broadcast a 24-hour news channel and educational

the digital airwaves for Gaelic

ITV and Channel 4 are planning a mix of free and paid-for services. ITV plans a digital entertainment channel. Channel 4 plans a digital channel showing films and educational programmes.

Up to 15 other digital terrestrial channels will also be launched, all available on a subscription basis.

Satellite television is already available in over five million homes. Viewers have to buy dish and decoder box and pay a monthly subscription for more than 40 channels

Satellite is expected to be the first digital service on air. BSkyB plans to introduce up to 200 digital satellite channels within the next year. BSkyB is 40 per cent owned by News owner of The Times.

The channels on offer from BSkyB may also include some BBC-branded services as well as pay-per-view movie and

THE BDB PROPOSAL

THE proposed BDB channels are:

BBC Horizon: selection of BBC nature, science. history and technology programmes in the evenings. Children's programming in the mornings.

BBC One TV: television version of Radio I, featuring pop music and Radio I disc jockeys.

BBC Showcase and BBC Style: selection of BBCl and BBC2 programmes with new food and fashion shows.

Sky I: family entertainment programmes, combining American drama, comedy and documentaries with

☐ Public Eye: dramas, films and documentaries linked by the theme of law and order, incorporating Sky News in the mornings.

Granada Plus: entertainment, comedy and drama classics as well as Coronation Street.

☐ Granada TV Shopping: teleshopping programmes offering viewers the chance to stroll around a virtual

Granada Good Life: lifestyle shows, covering health. fitness, interior design, gardening, cooking and motoring.

☐ Granada Sports Club: coverage of news from the country's top football clubs and a night-time music

☐ Carlton Select: showing original and classic British drama, exclusive special events, such as music and live football, as well as programmes from Carlton's Food

☐ Cariton Entertainment children's programming. drama, comedy and talk programmes.

☐ Carlton Films: feature films and television movies. The company would not disclose yesterday how much

the 12 channels in its basic package would cost, but it is likely to be competitive with the pricing for BSkyB's existing satellite services, which cost from £11.99 to

BDB is also offering three premium channels, which will be charged at a higher monthly subscription rate than the 12 channels in its basic package. The three premium services include the two film channels, Sky Movies and The Movie Channel, and Sky Sports, which has exclusive live rights to Premiership football.

THE DTN PROPOSAL

DIGITAL Television Network (DTN) is offering a more innovative service, which includes a new range of text channels. Although they include programmes from ITN and some Hollywood films, the channels do not have many names well-known to British audiences.

The DTN channels include: ☐ The Money Channel: business and consumer

programming. ☐ The Knowledge Network: educational programmes.

☐ The British Sports Channel: a 24-hour sports and

☐ The ITN Living History Channel: promising "the real stories behind recent events" in programmes made by

☐ Animal Planet: wildlife programmes.

☐ The Box music video channel, where the tracks are chosen by viewers telephoning in their requests. Already available on cable.

☐ Travel: holiday programmes about British and overseas destinations.

☐ Digital Box Office: a pay-per-view service covering films, sport and other big events.

☐ Turner Classic Movies: Hollywood films.

□ MGM Gold: entertainment programmes from the MGM studio.

Cartoon Network: children's cartoons in the daytime. programmes for adults in the evening. Already available

☐ Metro TV: a local service covering the Greater Manchester area, due to be expanded to other cities.

☐ The Movie Experience: this film channel will not be available immediately, but will be added to the package at

DTN is also promising to offer an extensive collection of 20 data services linked to its televisual channels Money. Knowledge and Sports, Metro and Travel. For example, the Travel text service could provide written information on-screen about holiday destinations shown on the Travel television channel.

It is also planning a home shopping service and a number of national news services. The text services will be linked to Cable Tel's Internet service, Cable Online.

US model shows that more is less

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

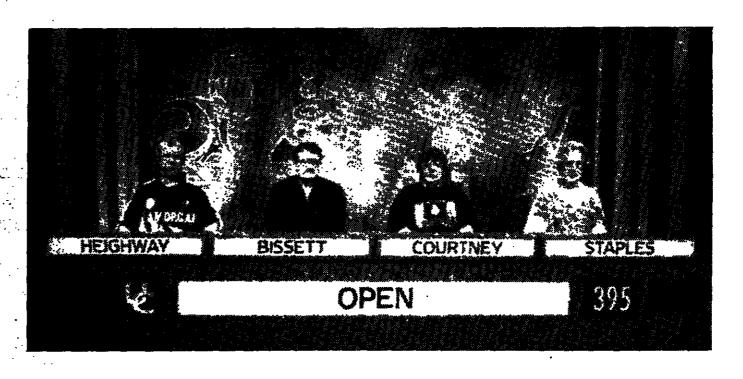
TECHNOLOGY may allow for multi-channel television, but the standards o. American broadcasting raise questions about the ability of programme-makers

to keep step with science.
In New York, cable television subscribers can choose from 76 channels, but the quality on many stations is deplorable. Frequent advertising breaks interrupt the "entertainment". Viewers soon learn to channel surf, endlessly pressing the buttons of their TV remote control devices in search of something decent to

The multiplicity of channels allows for specialisation. There is a shopping channel, a black channel, a Spanish channel and a comedy channel. Others carry history programmes, gossip, ro-mantic films, linancial news and science fiction. There is a channel devoted entirely to cookery lessons and even a channel which tells you what is on other

While some programmes cater to a specialist audience, others struggle to fill the gap between commercials. The round-the-clock MSNBC news channel. part-owned by the computer billionaire Bill Gates, is little better than an amateur

stew of opinions and headline roundups. At first, British expats may find themselves rejoicing in the wide variety of flickering images on the screen, but after a short period they tend to long for the simplicity of a four-channel choice. If America, with deep finances and its large audiences, is unable to provide quality programming on so many channels. there seems little chance that Britain will be able to approach the task.



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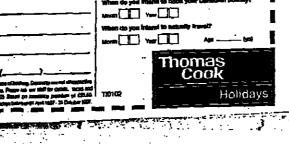
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Thomas Cook Holidays

tion." says the report

More than 30 species to join protected list

مِكذا من رلامل

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 30 rare and endangered species are to under the Wildlife and Countryside Act. The basking shark, the stag beetle and a rare puffball are among 33 animals and plants proposed for inclusion on the list of protected animals and plants.

Other species include the bluebell, the marsh fritillary butterfly, the pool frog, the water vole, the fiery clearwing moth and the pearl mussel. Only one species is to be taken off the protected list — the vipers buglass moth, which no longer needs safeguarding.

The Joint Nature Conservation Committee, which is recommending the changes to John Gummer, the Environ-

ment Secretary, says that the sandy stilt pulfball, found at only three sites in Suffolk and Somerset, is threatened by collectors. "This fungus is under threat because of its curious appearance and the fact that there are fewer than 20 individual plants known in Britain," it says.

The stag beetle, Lucanus

cervus, is restricted to a belt across south and southeast England, including the New Forest. The most pressing threat is the increasing trade in this species, especially on mainland Europe but also in Britain. Occasionally it is used for dissection to demonstrate insect structure in educational establishments," the committee says. Its woodland habitat

felling and clearance. The basking shark, Ceto-rhinus maximus, would be the first shark to be protected by

British law. Measuring up to ten metres, it is the second largest fish in the world. It is thought to be endangered by demand to supply the lucrative Far Eastern trade in shark fins for soup.

The native pool frog, a green amphibian that enjoys small, sunny, ponds, is extremely rare in Britain; it is either extinct or clinging on in small numbers at its last known site Norfolk, Experts believe there may be other small populations in Norfolk, Camdgeshire or Lincolnshire. "It is in a very precarious state

anomodon, flamingo moss, Alpine sulphur-tresses, goblin lights and New Forest beech-After a consultation period, during which objections may be lodged by groups such as landowners and farmers, the

tion later this year. ☐ The state of Queensland in Australia is to protect the deadly Great White Shark from an even deadlier enemy man. Fines of up \$75,000 (£35,700) will be imposed on inyone found killing the fish, whose numbers are declining. The Great White is already protected in New South



The pool frog may already be extinct. Its only known habitat is in Norfolk

Give me the moonlight and the nightjars – and leave the rest to nature

By Nick Nuttall, environment correspondent

NIGHTJARS measure out their lives by the phases of the moon, scientists said yesterday. Researchers have found that these rare, nocturnal birds time their mating, egg laying and feeding of their hatchlings with the waxing and waning of the moon.

The researchers believe that other nocturnal birds may also plan families around the brightness of the full moon. Dr Humphrey Crick, of the British Trust for Ornithology, one of the researchers, said: "We have found they are synchronising with the moon and this has a number of distinct advantages." By timing mating, laying

and feeding with the brightest

nights, the birds have a better chance of catching food for themselves and their offspring. thereby increasing their chances of raising a healthy brood. In addition, the young nightjars are, at about six weeks old, forced out of the nest to survive on their own. This is also timed

by the arrival of the next full

moon so that the inexperi-

enced birds have the best

chance of catching enough food to survive.

Some fish, such as the California grunion, seem to co-ordinate mating with the lunar cycle, and shellfish, like barnacies, are atuned to the tides, which are regulated by the moon. However, this is believed to be the first research showing that a bird is also influenced by the 282day lunar cycle. The findings,

Record Card Survey, data, dating back to 1939, collected by birdwatchers in Britain and covering 464 cases of nightjar nesting and laying in mainly Surrey, Hampshire and Nottinghamshire. Nightjars, a rare bird with about 3,400 pairs in Britain, hunt by night, feeding on moths and

published in the journal The

Auk, have come from Profes-

sor Chris Perrins, of the

Edward Grey Institute of Field Ornithology at Oxford University, and the British Trust for Ornithology, at

The researchers studied in-

formation from the Nest

Thetford, Norfolk.

other night-flying insects. Dr Crick said that radio

they hunted by sight. "They sit on perches, rather like spotted flycatchers, and fty out and catch moths as they fly past. When it is pitch black, they fly around with their mouths wide open, trawling. This is not very efficient."

The researchers found that nightiars mate and la tracking of the birds showed eggs in June, some five to

seven days before the approaching full moon, which is around the middle of the month. The eggs take about 18 days to hatch. Approximately ten days later "the young are quite big and need a lot of food. This coincides with the next full moon," Dr Crick

At six weeks old the young nightjars are given their marching orders. This coincides with another full moon the researchers found.

The scientists believe that the nightjars must be sensitive to the moon, able to measure its size or the rise and fall of its light intensity.

NEWS IN BRIEF Five face affray

Four men and a woman were remanded in custody yesterday after an incident at a London restaurant.

charges

They appeared before Mark-borough Street magistrates, charged with affray at the Quo Vadis restaurant in Soho on Thursday. Two were also charged with common as-sault and one of these faces a charge of criminal damage.

Quo Vadis, where the artist Damien Hirst's cow's heads in formaldehyde are displayed. has been a focus for protests.

River suspect

Clifford Harris, the Briton found dead in a river in Perth, Australia, and who had been sought by police in connection with the murder of a woman found on his farm in Devon. died of asphyxiation. Australian police said. He is thought to have killed himself.

Stunt damages

The producers of Franken-stein - The Real Story have won £270,000 damages at the High Court from Effects Associates Ltd, a special effects company, after a sledge upturned during a chase scene, breaking the arm of Patrick Bergin, the film's star.

Women killed

Five teenagers have been charged after two elderly women were knocked down and killed by a stolen car which mounted the pavement in Port Seton, East Lothian. The victims were named as Marion McPhee and Sarah Imrie, both 76.

Dateline death

John Patterson, founder of the computer dating agency Dateline, has died of a heart attack. aged 51. Mr Patterson, of Bicester, Oxfordshire, set up the agency in 1966 after observing the difficulties of shy students trying to find part-ners. Obituary, page 25

Dialysis break

Butlin's has installed three dialysis machines costing E48,000 at its resort in Bognor Regis to allow people with kidney problems to take extended holidays. Butlin's may extend the machines, which are run by a team of nurses, to Weekend, page 6 | its other centres.

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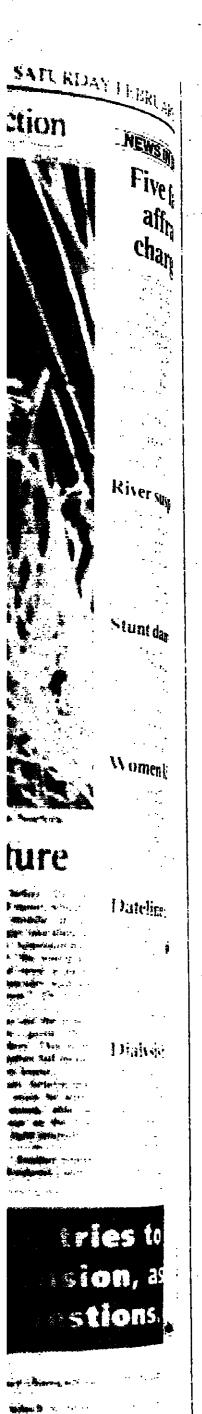


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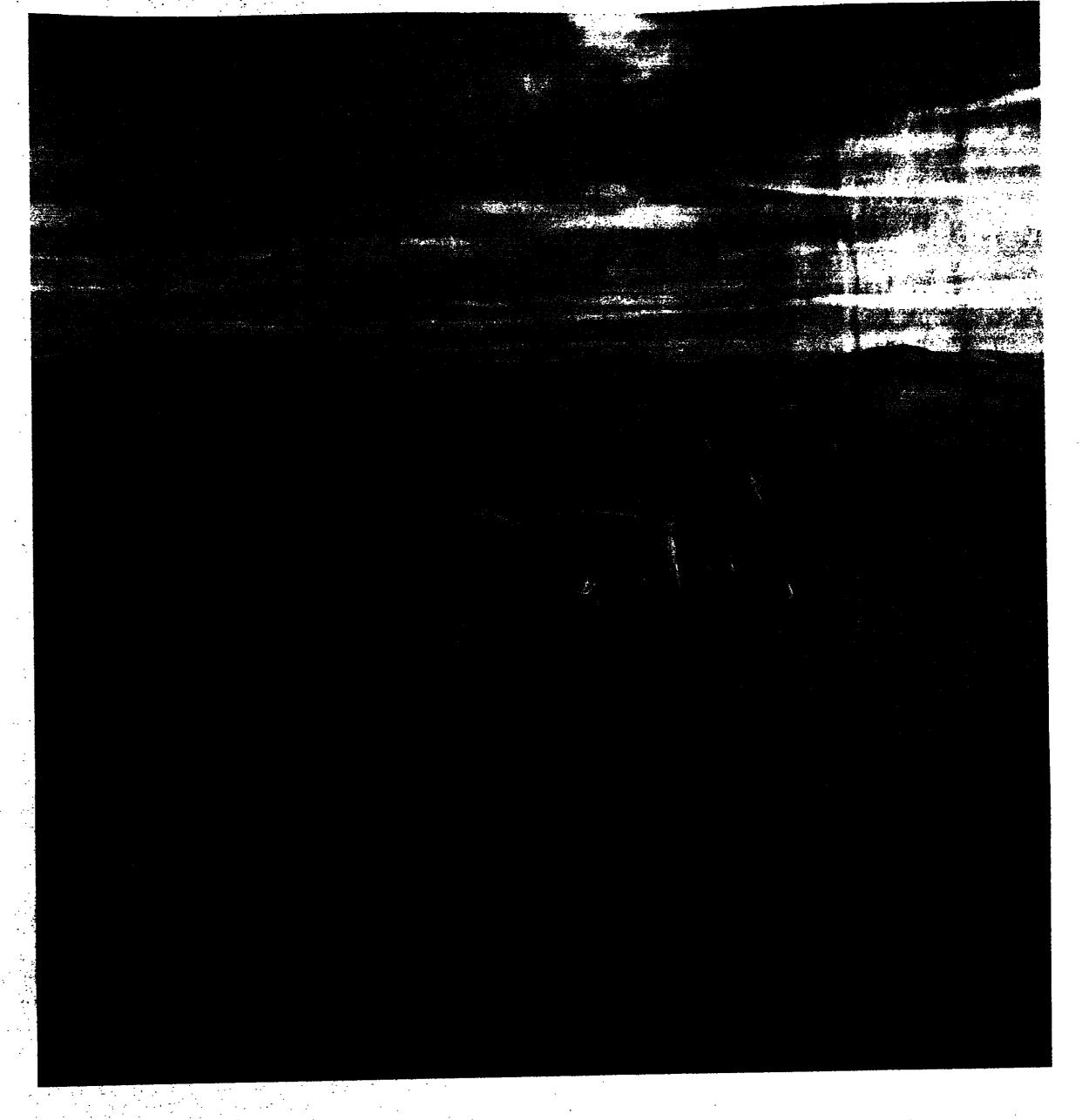


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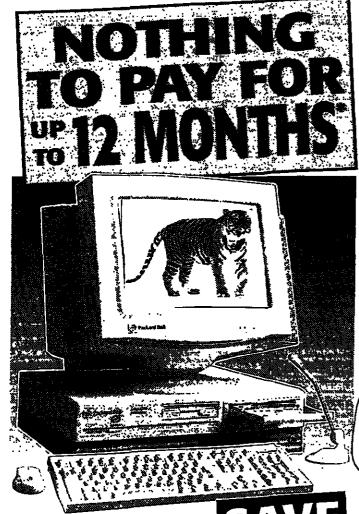
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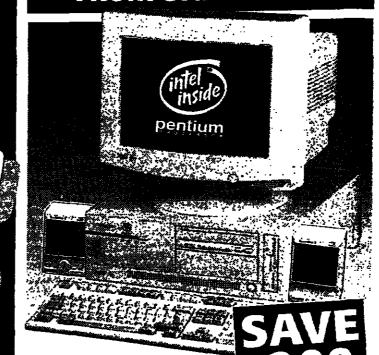
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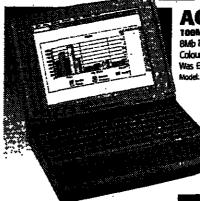
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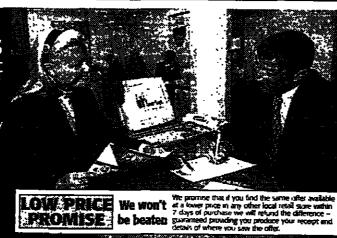
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Palmtop computers help to lift school reading standards

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

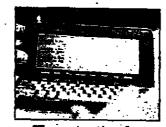
READING standards of children in inner-city schools has been improved by a project giving seven-year-olds their handheld computer notebooks.

Youngsters more used to Sega games than short stories are reading at a significantly higher level since they received their computers. They are also borrowing more li-

The £200 palmtop computers particularly encourage children who struggled to write clearly but are now finding that they can communicate more easily by typing

Acorn Pocket Books are used by 600 children in three London boroughs for writing exercises in class. They are used for homework which is then downloaded at

Inspectors last year heavily criticised standards in two of the boroughs involved, Tower Hamlets and Southwark.



The computers also help children to write

because many children were two years behind in reading by the time they reached secondary school.

Ray Barker, director of the Docklands Learning Accelera-tion Project, said: "When we looked at the way children learnt from the age of five, they were falling behind by four months every year, so they would be two years behind by the time they went to secondary school. A year on the decline had been halted."

Researchers said yesterday that the rise in standards they observed was irrespective of

the children's home background. The technology seemed to overcome social factors often associated with poor literacy. Many of the children were from ethnic backgrounds and they also improved at a similar rate. None of the computers was

Mr Barker added: "We seem to have found equal access to literacy for children judgmental. People generally come with a preconceived notion of what they expect from children, for example, if they are from an ethnic background they might believe they would have difficulty with reading and give them an easier book to read. The technology does not have there is no excuse for children under-achieving."

The project is funded by the National Literacy Association, lobby group backed by



Pupils at Winsor primary in East Ham, Newham, using computer notebooks

Couple's wedding vows may be valid

By RITH GLEDHILL

A COUPLE whose wedding was conducted by a nonordained student might be validly married, Church of England lawyers have said. Rod Earnshaw and Shirley

Wilson, both 25, were threatening legal action against the Church after they feared that their £8,000 wedding at Golcar, west Yorkshire, was not valid because it had been conducted by Sieve Grant when the vicar failed to arrive on time. However, church lawyers said that if the couple had believed Mr Grant to be ordained, the marriage could stand in

church law.

The possible loophole for Mr Grant, a 20-year-old history student, is disclosed in a letter to The Times today by Canon William Price, one of his tutors. He cites Halsbury's Ecclesiastical Law, which makes it clear that a church marriage by a person who is not ordained is void. However, exceptions have been made.



Dudley's loveless childhood

The comedian and Hollywood star **Dudley Moore** reveals the truth about his harrowing early years, in an exclusive interview in tomorrow's Sunday Times

THE SUNDAY TIMES THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Safety fears over tunnel force new delays at A30 site

By STEPHEN FARRELL

FEARS that a tunnel previously occupied by protesters at the A30 site is still unsafe has delayed clearance work.

Although the last of five activists hidden in tunnels was evicted on Thursday night, specialists believe that the 30ft tunnel known as Big Momma needs to be made safe before work on the £65 million Exeter to Honiton road scheme can

Mark Clark, spokesman for the under-sheriff of Devon, send in the heavy machines, collapse the tunnels and dig it

The security operation at Fairmile, the last of three protest camps on the route, has cost tens of thousands of pounds each day, although the number of police and private security guards was yesterday reduced from a total of 200 to about 50 security guards and

eight police officers. Trevor Coleman, the undersheriff, denied that the protesters had won a victory by delaying work and publicising their cause. We are very pleased to have completed our task in exactly one hour less

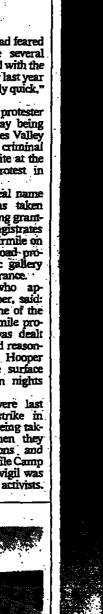
than one week. We had feared the job could take several weeks, and compared with the evictions at Newbury last year this has been relatively quick."

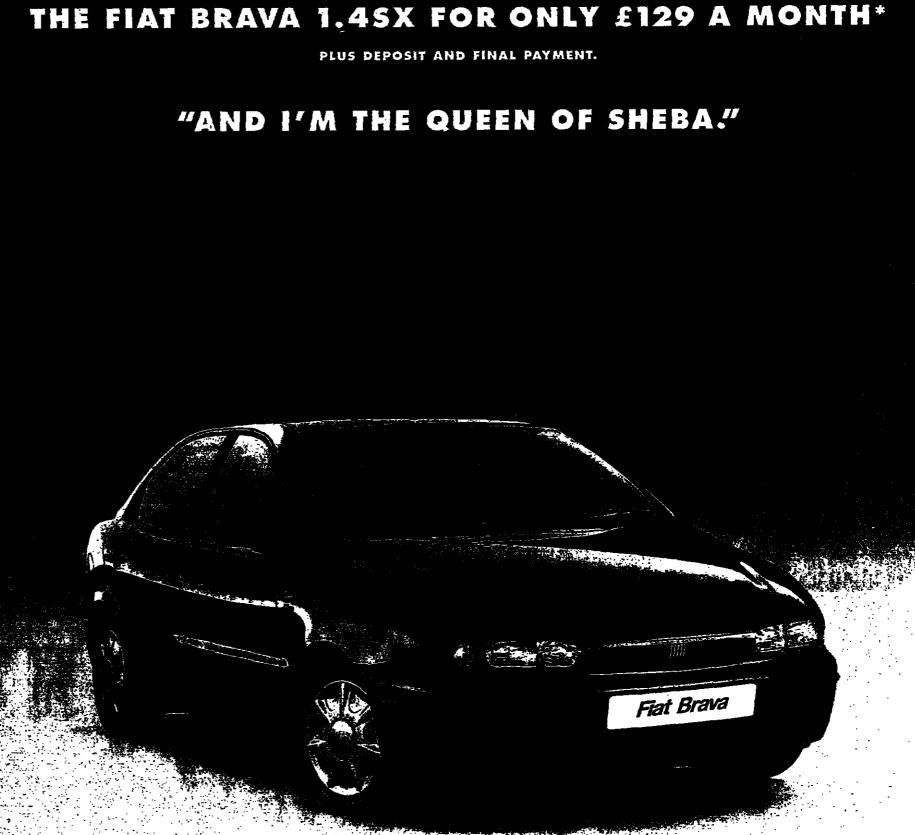
Swampy, the last protester evicted, was yesterday being questioned by Thames Valley Police over alleged criminal damage to a theodolite at the Newbury bypass protest in Berkshire last year.

The 23-year-old, real name Daniel Hooper, was taken said: "It will take at least two important being grant-days to shore up the passage, ed hall by Exeter magistrates ways and make sure there is nothing inside. Then we can sandary 30. Three road protesters in the public gallery applanded his appearance.

peared for Mr Hooper, said: "Although he was one of the more notorious Fairmile protesters everything was dealt with in a friendly and reasonable manner." Mr Hooper was brought to the surface after spending seven nights underground.

Two protesters were last night on hunger strike in Exerciprison after being taken into custody when they broke bail conditions and returned to the Fairmile Camp earlier this week. A vigil was held outside by other activists.







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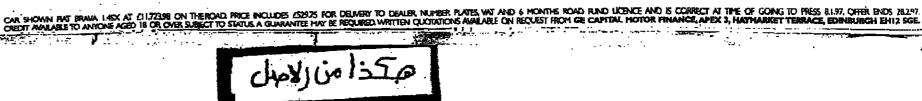
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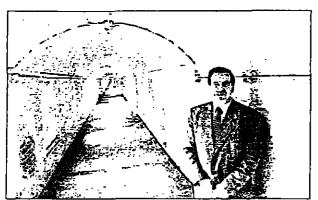
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DRIVEN BY PASSION



Britain's most famous Victorian asylum to become apartments



Luke Comer inside the building. He has made offers on several other former asylums

By MARCUS BINNEY

A GIANT lunatic asylum is to be rescued from dereliction and converted into 250 flats. The original residents of Colney Hatch were paupers. The newest will pay as much as £300,000.

In Victorian times "Colney Hatch for you" meant "You're mad". Colney even replaced bedlam as the popular term for a madhouse. Built with ten million bricks in 1851, the year of the Great Exhibition, it was to house 1.200 patients. Yet far from being grim and prison-like, the 1.883ft-long North London building was set in 138 acres of landscaped grounds, offered numerous entertainments for its

So many foreign visitors came to see the humane treatment on offer that a special guidebook was published.

Its purchase by the Irish entrepreneur Luke Comer has come as a surprise conclusion to a six-year planning battle during which the health authorities sold off a large part of the grounds for development and demolished more than half the buildings in a misguided effort to make the property easier to sell. The hospital has been vandalised and partly burnt during the six years it has stood empty. Everything demol-ished will now be replaced.

inmates and had its own beer cellar. architect who led the hard-fought but its own farm, workshops and launsuccessful restoration of Alexandra Palace, on a hill just to the south. Mr Comer said: "Quite a number of the flats will have living rooms of nearly 1.000 sq ft, as large as many houses. There is nothing that can't be restored. A lot of the windows are oak. Prices will range from just under £100,000 to over £300,000."

Before Colney, "pauper lunatics" had been housed in prisons, workhouses and houses of correction. The new hospital was based on a principle of "no restraint". Patients were told by the chaplain that they would enjoy "pleasant conversations, amus-The conversion plans have been ing books, diverting games and drawn up by Peter Smith, the outdoor exercise. The hospital had

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dries. There were fetes, dances, concerts, lectures and lantern shows. Patients were allowed out with a nurse to visit relatives on their birthdays.

In the centre was a large exercise hall with a stage for an orchestra. The Italianate building with belvedere towers was designed by Samuel Whitfield Dawkes, architect of the palatial seat of the Earls of Dudley at Great Witley, preserved as a ruin by English Heritage after a fire. In 1937, Colney became Friem

Barnet mental hospital. Now the former chapel will be converted to a swimming pool and gymnasium. To the north of the magnificent entrance

front, 36 acres of parkland will be open to the public. Mr Comer worked as a sub-contractor on the restoration of 17th century Kilmainham Hospital in Dublin. In London, he has just finished converting into 134 flats a former mental asylum at Ealing, also a listed building, renamed Osterley

"We have made offers on a number of asylums," said the developer, who is not worried about any stigma attaching. In the west of Ireland. where I come from, people might be a bit suspicious. In London, there are plenty of punters wanting to live in fine old buildings. We have even thought of naming it The Asylum. It

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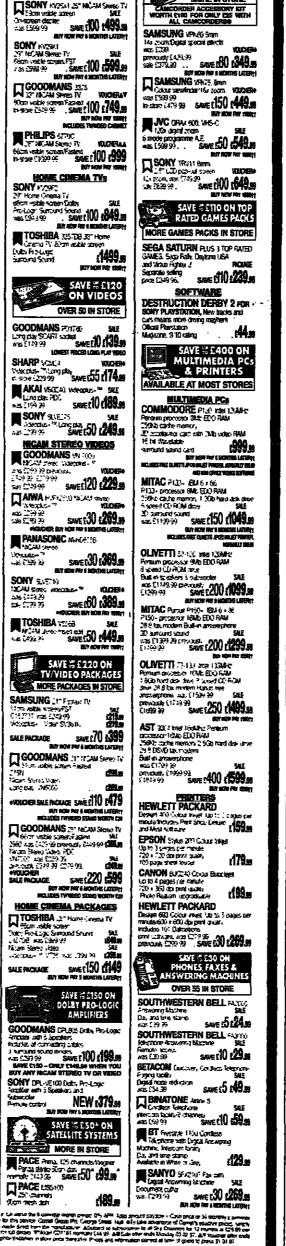
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Jews agree to differ in dispute over Gryn tribute offices

BY RUTH GLEDHILL

AN END to a dispute which has divided the Jewish community since the death of Rabbi Hugo Gryn, the Holocaust survivor, appeared to be in sight yesterday. The Chief Rabbi, Jonathan

Sacks, who heads the Orthodox United Synagogue, has been condemned by the right wing of the Orthodox movement for his decision to attend a commemorative meeting for the late Dr Gryn. a prominent and popular leader of progressive jewry. The protest from the strictly Orthodox has surprised Jews and non-Jews.

The Orthodox Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregaonly guarantee for Jewish survival is adherence to the precise letter of written and oral Jewish law, opposes Dr Sacks's attendance because it fears it lends Orthodox endorsement to Dr Gryn's more liberal Reform movement. The union said it understood Dr Sacks's predicament but was "bound to condemn" his decision, although it did not insist that he should not go. The president of the United

fully supportive of Dr Sacks. | dealing with cases.

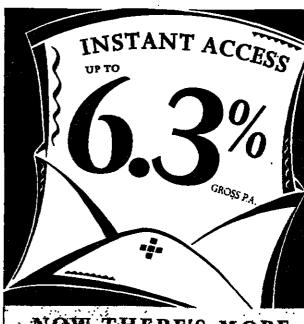
Up to 1,200 jobs to go in migration

By RICHARD FORD

TWELVE Hundred jobs are to be cut in the immigration department as a result of the introduction of a computer system for asylum and nation-Up to 750 adminstrative per-

sonnel are expected to lose their jobs, mostly at the department's offices in Croydon. south London. Senior officials at the Home Office said they hoped that all the jobs could be lost through voluntary redundancy, at a cost of £22 million. Sir Richard Wilson. Permanent Secretary at the Home Office, said that the job losses would not occur among staff at entry ports but among those dealing with immigration and sylum casework, ne salo: the moment it is a very oldfashioned paper-based system. They have a lot of people dealing with large files." The new technology would allow a much better service to be provided.

Voluntary redundancy will also be offered to staff in other areas, including Prison Service headquarters, certain jails and drugs prevention teams. Civil service unions condemned the proposed job cuts Synagogue. Elkan Levy. and the officers said they were time of huge backlogs in



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Debate on Europe reveals hostility of Tory peers

TORY divisions over Europe spilt into the House of Lords yesterday when peers debated Britain's membership of the European

In a heated 612-hour debate attended by almost 200 peers, senior Tories attacked John Major's wait and see policy on a single currency and many called for Britain to withdraw from Brussels completely. The Lords voted by 52 to 51 to give a second reading to the Bill.

The debate was attended, but not voted on, by Baroness Thatcher, the former Prime Minister, and many former Cabinet ministers on both sides of the House as well as former MEPs and former diplomats.

The Bill was introduced by the arch-Eurosceptic Lord Pearson of Rannoch, who told peers that his

European Communities (Amend-ment) Bill would be "the first small step on the road back to selfgovernment and freedom". It would repeal crucial sections of the European Communities Act 1972, under which EU law was made

superior to British legislation. Lord Pearson said: The Community never gives up the power it has acquired. So the European Union is therefore a quicksand, a quaking bog, which we have entered at our peril. It is politically redundant and for us it is commercially crazy. But there is no way out, short of complete withdrawal,

He denied that the Bill would embarrass the Government, "Only when all the others are convinced that we really are prepared to go, might they agree to the changes we

John Major's policy on the EU came under heavy attack in a well-attended Lords debate. Many peers called for outright withdrawal. James Landale and Alice Thomson report

that we should go it alone anyway and leave them to their grand but risky design," he said.

We would go in friendship and then would heave a huge sigh of

Lord Taverne, a Liberal Democrat, called the Bill "shameful and damaging" and moved a wrecking amendment to delay it by six months. He said: This house plays an important part in our constitution it's not a school debating society. Yet we are now seriously being asked to behave like a banana republic or the Soviet

Union in the days of Stalin and to scrap a treaty which it is said no

longer suits us." He accused Baroness Thatcher of going back on her principles: she had helped to create the single market and brought in the legislation that led to greater majority voting in the EU.

Lord Charteris of Amisfield, a former Private Secretary to the Queen, said that he had voted for joining Europe in the 1975 referendum but membership of the EU was "changing our history, and a great many people do not like it".

the EU was like a game of rugby. "Year by year, we who defend national sovereignty are being pushed back," he said. "It's time that the ball was kicked very long and very hard back the other way. preferably back into touch for a while, in order that we can think how we can save Europe from

But Lord Kingsland, a former leader of the Tory MEPs, argued that Lord Pearson's Bill would leave "whole swaths" of British economic and social activity unregulated by law. He insisted that there had been no loss of sovereignty. as Britain could technically withdraw from the EU at any time.

Earl Clanwilliam, a Tory, said: We need to be disconnected from Europe before the final and irrevocable signing up to a federal

ing that our Parliament is superior to Brussels." He added that if a single currency went ahead, "there would be a disaster of such proportion that we could not conceive of it".

Baroness Ramsay of Cartvale, a former intelligence officer and friend of John Smith, the former Labour leader, said it was depressing that the future of Britain was being discussed in such a "negative and retrograde" way. "What country can stand alone?" she asked. Certainly none in Europe. Why should we want to do it when we can have more power, weight and effectiveness in the group?"

Lord Grey, a Tory, said the reality was that a single European state, with the UK as a province, was on the agenda of some of the most ardent Europhiles.

DAN CHUNG/REUTERS

admit the agenda exists, whether they subscribe to it or not, and the electorate must be asked for its

Viscount Exmouth, a Tory, gave a warning that a single European state would be so unpopular that it would bring "anarchy and civil unrest" to our streets. "Perhaps we should have just handed it all over in 1940, all our sovereignty and

independence," he said. Lord Buxton of Alsa, a Tory, said that Whitehall had become an ally of Brussels, rendering politicians powerless.

Lord Willoughby de Broke, a Tory, dismissed claims that Britain's sovereignty could be pooled with Europe. "I cannot understand how you can pool sovereignty any You either have it or you don't."

need. But by then it will be obvious Gardiner's deselection regrettable says Portillo

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

MICHAEL PORTILLO yesterday voiced his support for Sir George Gardiner, the vet-eran Eurosceptic deselected as the Tory MP for Reigate.

Only hours after John Major refused to express any sadness at the MP's political demise, the Defence Secretary said that he was sorry at Sir George's fate after giving such good service to his constituents, and called for tolerance in the Tory party "towards a

very broad strand of opinion". His remarks came as Tory officials in Reigate began moves to find a new candidate as swiftly as possible before the election. The constituency is likely to be flooded with would-be Tory MPs keen to pick up the safe Surrey seat. which has a majority of 17.664.

Although Mr Portillo said that Sir George had been



Sir George after the vote he blamed on "entryists"

wrong to make some "unwise and rude" remarks about Mr Major, he indicated that the Conservative Party should be a "broad church".

He said during a visit to Lancashire: "I believe we are a tolerant party and I am sorry to see people being asked to leave their seats after they have given good service to their constituents. I hope we can continue to show tolerance towards a very broad strand of

Mr Portillo was visiting the by-election seat of Wirral South to support the Tory candidate, Les Byrom. Mr Byrom and Eric Forth, the education minister, were turned away from a girls' grammar school by education officials on Thursday when they tried to confront David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary, for a radio

- Earlier, at a press conference in London, Mr Major was asked if he was sad that Sir George had been ousted. He expressed no regret and said: "The selection of candidates is a matter entirely and completely for the constituency parties."

Sir George, who lost a deselection motion by 272 to 213 votes on Thursday night after his renewed criticism of the Government, had significantly failed to win the support of Central Office in his readoption campaign.

A senior Tory source said that the dispute had not been a Left v Right contest but "an



Read my lips: Michael Portillo makes small talk yesterday at Heswall in the by-election seat of Wirral South

Sir George refused to com-ment on his defeat but friends said that he was feeling his usual upbeat self. "He is a

substantial deselection motion

warhorse," said one. The MP blames his defeat on the more than 80 former Tories who rejoined the party in December so that they could vote against him in the first no-confidence motion. These "entryists and wreckers", as Sir George calls them, could not vote in the second,

issue about loyalty to the because they had not been in Central Office throughout this ber for the past six years, said:

Prime Minister Yesterday the party for more than six process. There are no grounds "It was a very sad evening. But the party for more than six months.

The MP claims that this broke the rules and is threatening legal action against the Tory officials for breach of trust. If that fails, he says, he may stand as an independent Conservative.

Major-General Michael Steele, chairman of Reigate Tories, dismissed the threat. "I consider the vote to be entirely fair," he said after the deselection meeting. "I have worked with the legal department of

on which to say that the vote was rigged.

The first defeat in the noconfidence motion was the key to Sir George's defeat in the second. Many of those members who might have supported him felt that to back him in the second motion would have left the party as divided as before. Many Tory activists are unhappy that the meeting had had to take place at all,

we must stand by John Major. We have got an election coming up. We've got to get our act together. The party is divided but we have to band together

very quickly - time is not on

Those likely to put in for the constituency include Sir John Wheeler, the Northern Ireland Minister, and Winston Churchill, who will lose their seats Westminster North and Davyhulme respectively as a result of boundary changes.

Major's poll claims do not fit the facts

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

JOHN MAJOR yesterday broke a cardinal rule of politicians: never daim that your secret opinion polls tell a better story than published polls unless you are prepared to back that with the

Mr Major described as "complete rubbish" the MORI poll in The Times yesterday which put Labour 25 percentage points ahead. He claimed that the Tories' "tracking polis" had over the past four or five months "shown a very sharp differ-ence" and were "a mile away

from the MORI poll". He provided no evidence for his assertions. Conservative Central Office staff later refused to disclose any details, claiming that they were private. This refusal is apparently against the spirit of the guidelines agreed by the Association of Professional Opinion Polling Org-anisations. This states that when details of private polls are leaked to the media, whether directly or through a third party, the polling firm will clarify and correct any misleading or incorrect impression. Tory officials deny any conflict.

ICM carry out polls for the Tories, as well as for The Guardian. The last two public ICM poils put the Labour lead at 17 to 19 per cent after the figures had been adjusted for the alleged reluctance of some Tory supporters to declare their views. It would be surprising if what the private Tory polls showed was different. The unadjusted leads are only a few points smaller than the MORI figures. Whichever basis is chosen.

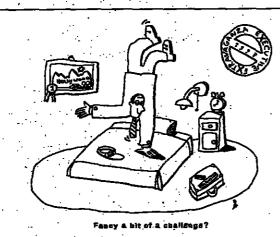
the implication of a huge Labour lead remains, contrary to Mr Major's claim. Mr Major argued that

according to the MORI findings, Labour would have won the 1992 general election. Like all pollsters. MORI asks people how they voted in 1992. Some cannot remember, did not vote or were too young. This ques-tion has regularly shown that a sizeable proportion of Liberal Democrat support-ers have forgotten their previous vote so they claim to have voted for whatever is now the leading opposition party. At present, this boosts the claimed Labour vote in 1992 and reduces the Liberal Democrat one. On the latest figures, it shows Tory and Labour roughly level-peg-ging in 1992, rather than Labour clearly winning the election. This does not necessarily mean that current levels of Labour support are over-stated, though some pollsters argue that an adjustment of three or four

points should be made. Nor does this phenomenon affect Conservative support, since the MORI question about 1992 voting is almost entirely accurate about the party's share then. There is no reason to doubt current polls pointing to a Tory share of about 30 per cent. Mr Major was whistling in the wind. Worse, he was making precisely the mistake he himself criticises in others of selectively using polls when it suits him. The Tories should publish their own polls if they want to

PETER RIDDELL

challenge other ones.



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Tory anger as sham speech proposes increased taxes and Marxist policies

Bishop puts radical words into the Queen's mouth

RELIGION CURRESPONDENT

A BISHOP has written his own version of the next Queen's Speech, in which he quotes Karl Marx, condemns hospital understaffing and adds 5p to the basic rate of income tax. Tories have condemned the article, which one MP describes as "absolutely outrageous"

The Right Rev David Lunn. the Bishop of Sheffield, calls in his latest diocesan newsletter for his "dream Queen's Speech" to be placed on the nation's agenda. The first priority of his ministers, he says, would be to bring an end to the scandalous waste of that resource that results from the massive unemployment of recent decades".

He condemns as false the theory that prosperity and employment will result from economic revival and says that new jobs do not lie in manufacturing but in hospitals. schools and public buildings. There is an infinity of work waiting to be done."

Continuing his makebelieve speech, the Church of



Sir Irvine Patnick is appalled by the bishop's speech, which includes a quotation from Marx

quote Karl Marx: From each

according to his abilities, to

He argues that an increase of

5p in income tax "will be

widely welcomed as the price

that has to be paid for full

employment good homes and

Sir Irvine Pamick, Tory MP

good schools and hospitals".

for Sheffield Hallam, said:

each according to his needs"."

isters have sufficient confi-England bishop says: "Many of my ministers are old enough to remember a time dence in the programme that they have set before you to when it was unthinkable that in this country the homeless should be found sleeping in the streets. They are appalled that so quickly this intolerable scandal has become acceptable. In the next lew days they will bring measures before you designed to end this

unforgivable evil. The bishop adds: "My minraged by the leader of a religious denomination. He is supposed to be above political issues. Using a pretend Queen's Speech is absolutely оциадеоия. For a responsible cleric it is appalling." Charles Hendry, a Conser-

vative Party vice-chairman, said: "People will be shocked by these comments. They will he surprised at him quoting Karl Marx, given Marx's dismissive remarks about religion being the opium of the

Bishop Lunn's spokesman. Canon Roy Arnold, said yesterday: "His imaginary Queen's Speech does enter the political fray but not particularly in favour of any one party. His views are his own but perhaps shared by many other thinking people in this country."

The article comes only days after the retiring Bishop of Liverpool, the Right Rev David Sheppard, appeared to blame government policies for unemployment.

> At Your Service. Weckend, page 13



Bishop Lunn describes the plight of the homeless sleeping rough as an "unforgivable evil"

Credo Candlemas lightens the way to God

Geoffrey Rowell

ilgrimages and proingrained in our consciousness. They express in a visible way both the sense of the journey of life, and the quest for a goal which gives that journey meaning. Processions at weddings mark the beginning of a shared life. The funeral procession is a necessary taking of a mortal body to a place of burial or cremation, a bidding farewell, and a symbol of whatever journey may lie beyond the horizon of death.

Pilgrimages to shrines and temples have at their heart a coming to a numi-nous place of encounter with what Rudolf Otto tremendum et fascinans -the overwhelming and compelling mystery of the holy. In places of Christian devotion, such as Lourdes or Walsingham - and preeminently in Jerusalem. where pilgrims trace the Way of the Cross - processions are part of the ritual of pilgrimage. In Mecca, Muslim pilgrims circle the

Kaaba. In one way or another these ritual movements symbolise our journey into the presence of God. In a more secular context. marches and demonstrations, processing celebrating the return of a victorious team. journeys to visit literary shrines, and even the walking of longdistance footpaths, are in-stances of this same deep instinct. Tomorrow, the Feast of

Candiemas, was one of the great processional feasts of medieval England. The blessing of candles carried in procession when the light began to return after the winter darkness commemorated an earlier pilgritmage, recounted by St Luke in his Gospel when he tells of the journey of Mary and Joseph to Jerusalem to present the infant Jesus to God in the temple.

They brought the child to the holy place, to the place of presence and encounter with God. And there, in the temple, there is a moment of revelation for an old man, Simeon. who saw in the child the Messiah he had longed for, "a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people

The ancient hymns and prayers of Candlemas dwell on the paradox of this child coming to the temple. He is brought to be presented to the Lord, yet He is Himself the incarnate Lord. The old man carried the child, yet the child was the

Mendage Activities According to the control of the

old man's God." The prophet Malachi looked for God's coming to His temple with the purifying fire of judgment, yet He comes in the weakness of a child. Simeon speaks of Him as radiant with light and glory, yet that light and glory are hidden and concealed. And when the old man blesses Mary and Joseph, he speaks of a future suffering, of the sword that will pierce His mother's heart, for her son's passion will draw out all her com-passion. He will suffer and she will suffer with Him.

The Christ who reveals God to us. whose life displays His love, is the one who, in giving Himself to us, hides His glory, coming to us as a child. The same Christ invites us to see Him also in the anonymity of the poor and the needy, the hungry and homeless, and to know and express His love in serving their need. It is not without reason that the Eastern Church calls this feast simply Hypapante, or meeting. At one level it is a meeting between Simeon and Anna, two old and devout people, and Mary and Joseph, the mother and father bringing a child to the temple. At a deeper level, it is the meeting of those who look for God and long for His presence, meeting the God who is revealed in the

The end of Simeon's journey is a beginning as his eyes are opened to see and to know the God who comes among in His mother's arms. whose giving of Himself in love is Simeon's and our salvation, the light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Israel. For us to see with the eyes of Simeon calls for a like response of faith, which may be as fragile as a grain of mustard seed but which, like a grain of mustard seed, has the capacity to grow and to

☐ The Right Rev Geoffrey



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llemas Leuc. ens the Chirac aige to God death camp convoy FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS with responsibility for medition. M Junor claimed the 1942 he had no idea would happen to the deported from Pithivier deported from P

destined for the Nazi gas chambers in 1942, a French news magazine claimed yesterday.

Michel Junot, 80, the former father-in-law of Princess Caroline of Monaco, worked between 1977 and 1995 as an adviser to M Chirac, then Mayor of Paris. His son Philippe married Princess Caroline of Monaco in 1978. They divorced in 1980.

As Vichy sub-prefect in the town of Pithiviers in the Loiret region south of Paris in 1942 and 1943. M Junot was responsible for security when a convoy of 1,000 Jews, including 163 under 18, was dispatched to a holding camp at Drancy on September 20, 1942. They were then deported to Auschwitz, Le Point magazine reported, citing newly discovered documents.

The magazine quoted letters from M Junot, then 25, to his superiors suggesting he had few moral qualms over his role in the deportations. "I have just been advised that a convoy of 1,000 Israelites will embark tomorrow," he allegedly wrote on the eve of the deportation, before noting that since almost all his available police would be needed to supervise the convoy he could



Junot: said he ran Resistance cell

not ensure security in the event of communist-inspired demonstrations on the day.

The day after the Jews were sent to Drancy, he is said to have written: "I had been somewhat fearful as to the possibility of incidents which could have had repercussions on the orderliness of this departure. There were none, and good order continued to reign in the town."

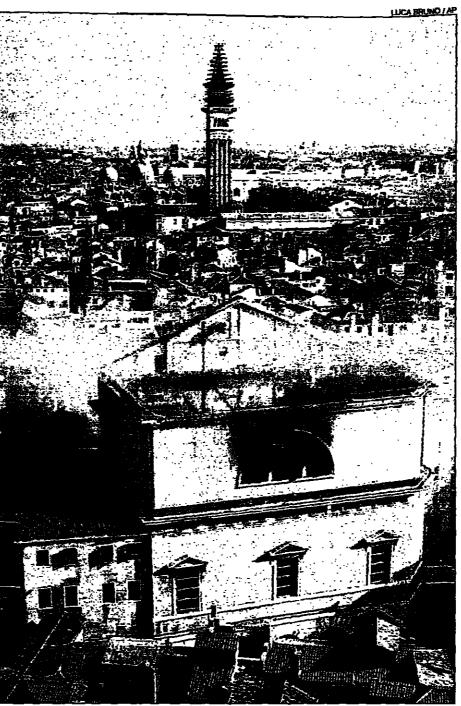
M Junot was dismissed from office in December 1945, but allowed to continue his Civil Service career since he claimed to have been playing a double role, serving the Vichy regime but also working for the French Resistance. He went on to become a regional prefect, an MP for the CNI party, and finally a mayoral aide to M Chirac for 18 years. We did not know the

destination ... we only thought they were going to Drancy. We certainly did not think they were going on a nice holiday, but I didn't learn of the existence of the death camps until April 1945, when the first deportees returned," he told *Le Point.*

The Resistance movement in the Loiret region has denied any knowledge of M Junot or his claimed anti-Nazi activities, but he insisted this was because he had been involved in a network set up by a secret resistance cell, the Central Bureau of Information and Action (BCRA).
"We were absolutely forbid-

den to have any contact with Resistance movements on the ground, simply for reasons of compartmentalisation," said. M Junot said he had set up a Resistance network for the BCRA with a Jewish friend, Jean-Claude Aaron.

The former Vichy official. who retired in the year of M Chirac's presidential election victory, said: "For a man or woman of 20 or 30, it is absolutely impossible to understand what daily life under the Occupation was like. Thus, it is very difficult to



The burnt-out shell of La Fenice opera house in Venice on the day after the fire

Mafia-backed arson blamed for Venice disaster

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

devastated La Fenice opera house in Venice, the police evidence points to Mafia-

Nobody has been arrested, however, and critics of the inquiry say the authorities are focusing on rebuilding the opera house rather than pursuing the culprits.

Venetians and opera lovers the world over watched aghast as firemen hosed down the smouldering ruin of the largely 18th-century opera house. whose breathtaking rococo interior had played host to opera composers and singers from Rossini to Pavarotti. A helicopter pilot, since decorated for his bravery, bombarded the inferno through the night with water scooped from the lagoon. However, most of the

huilding was wrecked.
Investigators led by Felice
Casson, the chief magistrate of Venice, identified suspicious circumstances: the night watchman was not on duty; the fire had been set near the roof by people who clearly knew the building well (and knew it was empty); canals nearby had been drained for cleaning and fire barges could

not get close. Local officials are still under investigation for negligence. However, the main theory. according to leaked versions of the preliminary inquiry, is that one of the building firms that had been carrying out renovation work (including anti-fire measures) was behind schedule and set fire to

A YEAR after the fire that the theatre to avoid financial penalties amounting to £20,000. The firm has not been identified, but officials in Venice say the trail leads to building firms ultimately controlled by organised crime in the Naples area.

Massimo Cacciari, the leftwing Mayor, says he has "faith in Casson" but is impa-tient with the lack of specific accusations. "Saying La Fenice was burnt down by Cosa Nostra is about as useful as saying it was attacked by alien spacecraft," he told Corriere della Sera. A local lawyer said: "If all the firms in Italy which are behind schedule set fire to buildings, the entire country would be in ashes." Doubt has also been cast on the Mafia theory by Paolo Costa, who at the time of the fire was rector of Venice University and is now Minister of Public Works.

Gianfranco Bettin, the deputy mayor, believes that the "penalty clause" motive is plausible. "Some firms would be driven to the wall by even a small fine," he said.

Signor Cacciari has prom isded to rebuild the theatre by 2000 "where it was and how it was", with the rococo decoration faithfully reproduced by Venetian craftsmen, but with 21st-century stage technology behind the scenes. However, reconstruction must start in June if the target is to be met and only half the £49 million needed has been raised.



Dreyfus: found guilty on false spying charges

Computer date for Dreyfus collectors

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE world's first auction on the Internet, in which collectors can bid and pay for relics and documents relating to the Dreyfus affair on their computer screens, was announced yesterday by Drouot, the French auctioneer.

The "virtual auction", using computer technology to sell pictures, letters and other documents linked to the centuryold seandal surrounding the treason trial and imprisonment of Alfred Dreyfus, is a prototype of the way auctions will be run in the 21st century, Jacques Binoche, the Dropot auctioneer, said.

The sale, on February 19, will take

place simultaneously in auction rooms in Paris and on the Internet, Collectors on the other side of the globe will be able to bid for items as they come under the hammer, while two cameras will relay the action live on the computer network for bidders and thousands of "surfers".

In recent years art dealers have begun making increasing use of the Internet, but the Dreyfus auction is the first to offer a complete service to buyers, including catalogue browsing, pre-bidding, interac-tive bids while the sale is in progress, and credit card payment via computer screen,
M Binoche said.

Dreyfus, a Jewish captain in the French Army, was found guilty on false spying charges in 1894, publicly humiliat-

ed to the delight of the anti-Semitic press and imprisoned on Devil's Island penal

colony in South America.

He was exonerated in 1906 after a sustained campaign to prove his inno-cence, most memorably by Emile Zola, the writer.

The affair, which split France and continues to provoke bitter debate, is reflected in the hundreds of items assembled over 30 years by Nicolas Philippe. His collection includes newspapers, posters and even cigarette cards. Starting today and until midnight on February 18, collectors will be able to view the catalogue and register "pre-bids" using the Internet access code: http://www.nart.fr

Fatima's third secret revealed

By Tunku Varadarajan

IN WHAT could prove to be one of the great theological anticlimaxes of our time, a senior Portuguese scholar has ventured the thesis that the much-feared "third secret of Patima" prophesied not the apocalyptic destruction of mankind but merely the end of Portugal's African empire. Details of the theory, put forward by José Geraldes Freire, Professor of Literature at the University of Coimbra. were published yesterday.

The secret has been the

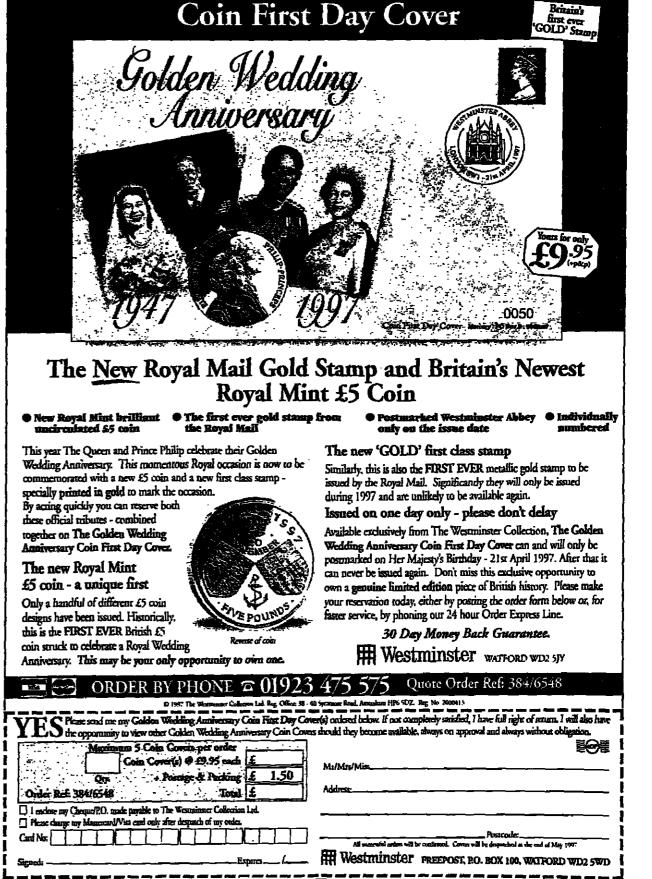
Own Britain's Golden Wedding

subject of much apprehensive debate since it was entrusted, nearly eighty years ago, apparently by the Virgin Mary. to a little Portuguese shep-herdess named Lucia. Lucia now nearly 90 and a Carmelite nun for the past fifty years was tending sheep at Fatima when, according to her testimony, a Lady brighter than the sun" appeared before her and two young cousins.

The children saw the Virgin for the last time, on October 13, 1917, when 70,000 devotees flocked to Fatima, and tenyear-old Lucia was entrusted with three prophesies, which came to be referred to as the "secrets of Fátima". The first two, which predicted the Russian Revolution and the Second World War, were later disclosed by the shepherdess. The third has been kept

secret and is known only to the upper echelons of the Vatican. After speaking to senior Vatican figures - many of whom hinted that the loss of Portugal's empire was at the core of the secret — Professor Geraldes Freire claims that he has enough information to be certain of his low-key thesis.





Senators' protests threaten Clinton choice of CIA chief

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

ANTHONY LAKE, nominat- Mr Clinton's nominees in the ed by President Clinton to be the next head of the Central Intelligence Agency, is facing increasingly tough objections from senators in a row that threatens to give Mr Clinton his first setback in forming a new Cabinet

The Senate this week delayed hearings into Mr Lake's suitability for the post, scheduled to begin on February II. for at least two weeks until the Justice Department has concluded investigations into his personal share investments. Senators, who have con-

past 10 days, are now jibing at both Mr Lake and Alexis Herman, the nominee for Labour Secretary. Mr Clinton has taken pains to avoid controversy in his selections, after Senate objections savaged the nominations for his first Cabinet four years ago.

Senate Intelligence Committee members are now awaiting Mr Lake's response to four sets of questions. The Justice Department is scrutinising his delay in selling stocks in energy companies after he had been advised to do so by White

First Lady defends her call for guest database

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

IN A new twist to Washington's growing feud over campaign financing. Hillary Clinton has admitted that she urged the installation of a computer database to keep track of White House guests. but was unaware it was used for political purposes.

The database dealt with people and events linked with the official work of the White House, the President's wife told reporters. She was forced on to the defensive as she was publicising her latest cause reviving small firms in poor districts with "micro-loans".

The database held more than 200,000 names and enabled the Democratic National Committee to identify prospects for increased donations and to pamper major donors with invitations to state dinners, White House stays and other perks, according to interviews with Truman Arnold, the committee's former finance chairman. His comments imply that the database, which cost taxpayers \$638,000 (£400.000), was illegally used for fundraising conflict of interest. Mr Lake has also come under fire for his role, while Director of the National Security Council, in the tacit US approval of Iranian arms shipments to Bosnia in 1994. Congressional Repub-licans have criticised him sharply for not telling Con-

In the growing row over questionable contributions to the election campaign, he has been criticised for not using the security council to check the backgrounds of foreigners visiting the White House. In particular, the council has been criticised for letting the President meet a Chinese arms dealer last February.

The committee's final concern, which may prove the hardest to answer, is whether Mr Lake can transform himself from his previous role as a prominent political appointee to become the head of an agency that is responsible for gathering impartial informa-

The White House is also battling to salvage the nomination of Ms Herman, after allegations that she was closely involved in other Democratic fundraising efforts, where potential donors from leading companies were allowed to government officials with influence over those

Ms Herman says that she did not think the "coffees", as such meetings are called,



Senior Superintendent Carl Williams of Jamaica's Narcotics Division with \$60 million of marijuana found in a Miami-bound cargo container

Jamaica refuses to let in US drug hunters

FROM MICHAEL DYNES IN KINGSTON

JAMAICA will not grant the United States the right to chase suspected drug traffickers into its territorial waters, despite an upsurge in the Caribbean drugs trade, Percival Patterson, the Prime Minister, has told The Times. While the Government is willing to co-operate in any programme to help make the Caribbean a drug-free zone, "we are not prepared to sacrifice our sovereignty in the ocess". he said.

Jamaica's authorities are also demanding the right to board US ships to search for illicit guns fuelling Kingston's gun-drug culture. Last year almost 1,000 people were killed with handguns smuggled in from America.

Mr Patterson's defiance comes before a fresh round of Washington-Kingston talks on how to stem a growing tide of cocaine and mariuana shipments to America from Latin America via the Caribbean. Jamaica is the only English-speaking Caribbean country that has refused to give American ships and planes the

right of "hot pursuit". Since the break-up of Colombian cocaine cartels there has been an increase in smaller-scale traffickers using the Caribbean. Large cocaine shipments in cargo vessels have declined, but small-scale ones in speedboats have grown. Caribbean

drug runners are able to use more than 20 different territorial waters. US authorities feel many islands are unable to police their waters effectively, and are demanding the right to do the job. Countries that fail to comply face having US aid suspended.

Peter King, chairman of Jamaica's

Export Security Council, insists the Government has introduced its own drug eradication programme. Last year, 6,700kg (61 tons) of marijuana, 480kg of cocaine, 318kg of hash oil, and 96kg of hashish were seized. Last month, Jamaican police found 26,000lb of marijuana, destined for America and worth about \$60 million (£37 million). An estimated 100,000 Jamaicans grow marijuana on a small

scale, and about 80 per cent of the male population are regular consumers (women rarely smoke). But it is the rapid growth of the violent cocaine trade that really concerns the authorities.

othe mu

New legislation has given them the right to seize the assets of drug traffickers, and impose maximum 35 year jail sentences and unlimited

Last year 263 Jamaicans and 339 foreigners were arrested on drugs charges, Mr King said. "Many tourists think that because they are in the land of Bob Marley they should smoke some ganja. But if you come to Jamaica to smoke ganja you are going to jail. You are not welcome here."

Golden sprinter in £7m deal

by the Democrats. The White

House denied this yesterday.

FROM QUENTIN LETTS

THE American sprinter Michael Johnson, who won gold medals for both 200m and 400m at last summer's Olympic Games, has signed a \$12 million (£7.4 million) endorsement deal with a sports-

shoe manufacturer. His six-year agreement with Nike, announced yesterday, will include "performance initiatives" - marketing executive speak for

further riches if he wins races. Johnson, whose stiff, "running waiter" sprinting style and gold-coloured track shoes made him one of the most popular figures at Atlanta, is a dollar multimillionaire. Last year he made \$3 million.

The Nike deal is confirmation that modern athletics is a big bucks business, offering its stars more than mere gold medals. In the Fifties the mos a successful runner could expect by way of reward was an orange to suck on and a

handshake from a retired brigadier. Now the fleet of foot can collect fast cars, corporate jets, a house in Beverly Hills and a streetwise agent.

Johnson's manager, Brad Hunt, has helped to organise a lucrative sporting event for his client this summer when Johnson will square up against his Canadian rival, Donovan Bailey, the 100m world record holder. Each will receive \$500,000 for showing up and the winner will take \$1 million.



Johnson: promised further riches if he wins races

Colombia hails cocaine raid

By Gabriella Gamini SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

COLOMBIAN anti-narcotics police vesterday incinerated the biggest cocaine production laboratory to have been detected in the country's 30-year drugs war.

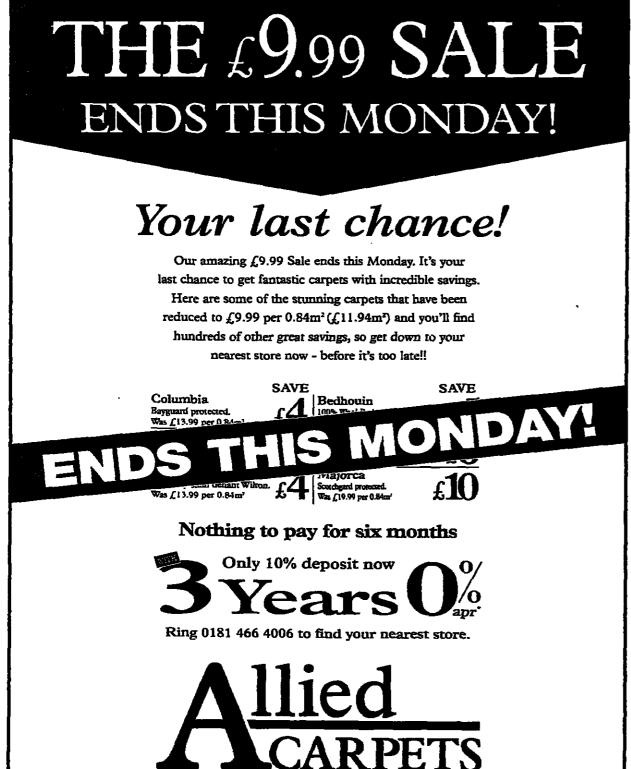
Seven tons of pure cocaine and 300kg (660lb) of coca paste — the result of a first stage of processing - were also confiscated during the police raid that began on

Thursday and was hailed as the "biggest blow to drug production ever".

Police came across the illicit laboratory, equipped to produce 1.5 tons of cocaine a day, in the southern Guaviare jungle, where 80 per cent of the world's cocaine is produced.

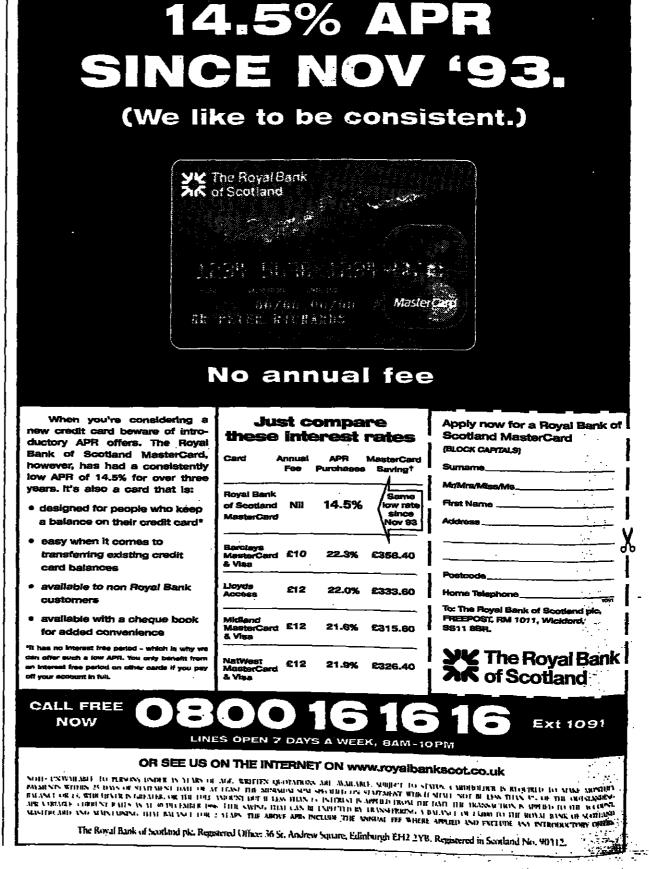
This is our most spectacular victory against drug producers. It will serve as a sign ment takes its anti-drugs war seriously," said General Rosso José Serrano, the chief of the anti-drugs police. The raid has come just in time for President Samper, whose anti-drugs war effort will be evaluated next month by the United States before more aid is allocated. Police used 50 special troops, eight helicopters, an aircraft and several speed

boats in the raid. Police said the laboratory belonged to the Cartel de los new group of drug barons which appears to have taken



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ANC men 'linked to the murder of Communist Hani'

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICA'S ruling African National Congress said yesterday it regarded as "serious" allegations that an un-identified group of ANC operatives had a hand in the 1993 assassination of Chris Hani, one of the party's most popular leaders.

The allegations, which arose after new disclosures about the circumstances surrounding his death, coincided with the publication of details of an explosive report implicating the serving head of the South African military and British special forces in "third force" violence that threatened to undermine the country's transition to majority rule. The new allegations will be investigated by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The alleged involvement of British SAS "advisers" was rejected by Foreign Office sources in London last night. Substantial military contacts between Britain and South Africa were renewed only after the election of the new nat-

ional Government in 1994. There is now a British military advisory and training team in South Africa helping to merge the old South African Defence Force with the "nonstatutory" forces such as the ANC military wing. However, it is possible that former members of the SAS, some of whom were recruited from Rhodesia, could have been employed unofficially to give training before 1994.

nigram

A one-time girlfriend of an apartheid-era military intelli-

gence agent has claimed she typed documents which showed that the authorities and some ANC security per-sonnel had knowledge of the plot to kill Hani. The charismatic leader of the South African Communist Party, Hani was said by the agent to have been seen as a threat to both sides. Winnie Mandela was reported after the assassination to have told confidents she believed that moderate ANC leaders had conspired

ernment to eliminate Hani. The revelations are said to reopen the book on one of South Africa's most emotional chapters when Clive Derby-Lewis, a Conservative Party politician, and Janusz Waluz, a Polish immigrant, were sen-tenced to death for the April 10, 1993, murder. Both have applied for amnesty from the commission, which may now look more closely at forces other than the group of right-wingers that wanted Hani

with the National Party Gov-

The commission is also to investigate allegations contained in the Steyn report based on the findings of an inquiry ordered by the former President, F. W. de Klerk, into revolutionary activities of ele-ments of the South African security forces in the final years of white rule. The investigation, conducted by General Pierre Steyn, who in 1992 commanded all intelligence functions of the armed forces,

was handed to Nelson Mandela before his accession to the presidency in 1994. When the ANC won elections, Mr Mandela refused to release the report because he considered its contents explosive. Recently he gave a copy to Archbishop Desmond Tutu's truth commission. A leaked copy of a summary

drawn up by commission officials was published in a Johannesburg newspaper yes-terday showing how the coun-try nearly lost control of the military and police in the runup to democratic elections. It confirms the involvement of commando units in random violence, and gives details about hit squads and the supply of arms and training to the Inkatha Freedom Party. General George Meiring, the present chief of the defence force, is implicated by the

General Steyn, now Secre-tary of Defence, does not say whether the SAS contact was



rival, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, whom he appointed yes-terday as South Africa's acting President. Chief Buthelezi will fill the post from tomorrow to Tuesday while President Mandela

and Thabo Mbeki, the Dep-

Buthelezi given power

uty President, are attending the President for his trust a meeting of the World and said: "I pray that noth-Economic Forum in Switzerland (Inigo Gilmore writes).

A delighted Chief Buthelezi, who is also Home Affairs Minister, thanked

and said: "I pray that nothing happens in the few hours during which I will be holding such a responsibility to show that I did not deserve

Mandela that the prospect of acting in that capacity ... filled me with awe."

With the National Party no longer in the Government of National Unity, Inkatha is the only party besides the African National with Cabinet

Jealous wife cut husband to pieces

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A FORMER Soviet dissident whose American dream went horribly wrong was convicted of killing her husband with an axe and chopping up his body into small pieces which were then thrown into New Jersey's Passaic River.

Rita Gluzman, 48, faces life in jail for taking part, with a cousin, in the killing of Yakov Gluzman, 49, a leading cancer research scientist. She became jealous after her husband

took up with another woman. The Gluzmans emigrated from the Soviet Union, where in 1971 she went on hunger strike to secure permission for her husband to leave the country. On reaching the West, the couple found a taste for material riches; she bought mink coats, BMW cars and the latest electronic equipment. When he sought a divorce, she feared that her wealth was in danger and began spying on him.

A technicality meant she was tried not for murder but for "spouse abuse".

Mohajirs' support grows before poll

FROM ZAHITO HUSSAIN IN KARACHI

gaged in a fierce conflict with the deposed Bhutto Government in Pakistan's financial capital of Karachi for more than three years, may hold the balance of power in the future national assembly.

ment, a nationalist organisation of Urdu-speaking Mohajirs (migrants), has emerged as a political force in Monday's parliamentary polis. Most opinion polls indicate that the group, which has been fighting for more political rights for Mohajirs, is likely to emerge as the third-largest group in the national assembly after the Pakistan Muslim League and Pakistan

It is also likely to form a coalition government in the

FORMER rebels, who en- province of Sindh. Mohajirs, migrants from India after partition, constitute more than 60 per cent of the population in Karachi and other cities in the province.

Led by Altaf Hussain. 43. who lives in self-imposed exile in London the MOM appears to have regained total political control of Pakistan's biggest city and other urban areas of Sindh province.

Thousands listen to their leader's telephoned speech from London every evening in middle and lower-class districts of Karachi. Life-size portraits of Mr Hussain adorn the movement's strongholds. Hundreds of supporters and members of their families who were forced into hiding to escape prosecution are back in the city.

THE SUNDAYTIMES



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DUDLEY'S GHOSTS

Dudley Moore reveals the truth about his harrowing early years and the loveless childhood that haunts him. In News Review

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS



Search for jungle wife condemned by Amazon experts

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN RIO DE JANEIRO

BRAZILIAN anthropologists and has apparently returned have condemned an American scientist's jungle expedition to search for his Yanomami Indian wife who escaped from a life in the West. They say that it is "detrimental" to years of work aimed at preserving Amazonian tribes.

The Yanomami woman turned her back on Western civilisation so she wants to be left alone to live with her tribe," said Carlo Zacquini. the co-ordinator of the Pro-Yanomami Commission. which has been working with the Indians since 1978.

Efforts to integrate a Yanomami Indian into Western life can only be detrimental," said Julio Geiger, the president of Brazil's official body for protecting Indian groups. "It goes against all anthropological studies which show that these Indians should be allowed to preserve their own ways.

The expedition was launched from Brazil's northern Roraima state last week by Kenneth Good, an American anthropologist, who wants to persuade his Yanomami wife. Yarima, to return to the United States to see their three

"She ran away, back to her natural habitat, after miserable years where she could not adapt to a comfortable allmod-cons life and preferred to run naked in the jungle and suck on honey cones," said Senhor Zacquini. "Like any woman, she may feel the need to see her children again, but it would be cruel to try to take her back." Mrs Good failed to adapt to the Western lifestyle when Mr Good took her to live in the New Jersey suburb of

Rutherford in 1988 She "slipped back" into the to a traditional life with her tribespeople, remarried and

Mr Good, who wrote about his Amazonian romance in a book called Amazon Love Stony, married her in a tribal ceremony when she was a child. He had gone into the jungle region along the border between Brazil and Venezuela which is inhabited by the Yanomami more than 20

had another child.

Although he was sent out to undertake a six-month project to research protein intake by the Indians, he remained in the Amazon for II years.

In his book, he describes how he built an oval oca (a straw hut) in the middle of a traditional village and how his cotton hammock was the envy of the Indians, who sleep in hammocks made from rough plant fibre.

Yarima was sent by her parents to prepare his food every day and eventually a romance blossomed.

His marriage to the girl. regarded as normal by the Indians, who are polygamous, was criticised by anthro-pologists as "unethical". His attempt to make her fit into suburban life in the United States was the target of even more condemnation.

Yarima permed her hair into an afro style and dressed her children - she had two in the jungle and one in the United States - in trainers and sweatshirts. She never became fluent in English and lived an isolated existence watched like a "monkey in a cage" by curious neighbours. Like any mother she proba-

bly yearns for her children and would want to see them," said Senhor Zacquini. Yanoungle during the filming of a mami women, however, contelevision documentary in the sider men responsible for Venezuelan Amazon in 1993 bringing up their children.



Riddick Bowe, saying he needs discipline and a new challenge, shows off his US Marine Corps papers

Boxer Bowe signs up to fight flab

IN WASHINGTON

RIDDICK BOWE, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, has taken a rather extreme step to get in better

United States Marine Corps reserves. That means three months of dreaded boot camp, up at 4.30am, drill sergeants in stiff-brimmed hats screaming insults in his face all day long, lots of spit-andpolish, and lights out by 10.30pm.

shape. He has enlisted as a private in the

"I'm going into the Marine Corps to be a killer, said Mr Bowe. 29, who has reaped more than \$100 million (£62) million) from his winnings, endorsements

professional career. He also has a wife, ive children and maybe too comfortable a life between fights. He wants to do something about his weight, which ballooned to 18 stone before a fight seven months ago. He admitted: "I need another challenge now, to have discipline.

In the hope of dissuading him from signing up, Mr Bowe's manager, Rock Newman, took him to the boot camp on Parris Island, South Carolina, to show him the rigours of training. Mr Bowe was awed but not deterred. He said: "I was kind of numb. I saw a guy getting this close" — he put his hand an inch from his

and investments during an eight-year nose - "spitting in his face". Boot camp ends with an exercise known as "The Crucible", in which recruits are deprived of food and sleep for 54 hours, engage in mock battles and are force-marched 40 miles across country carrying a 53lb pack. After that, Mr Bowe will undergo more combat training before joining the re-serves in Washington, his home town. If war breaks out, he could be called up. "If I gotta die defending my country, what a way to die," he said

Mr Bowe boasted he was already able to perform the push-ups and pull-ups required by the Marines, but confessed to being afraid of heights. "I ain't jumping out of no planes," he said.

Marine outrage over 'blood pinnings'



A Marine screams as a spiked medal is pushed into his chest

Washington: Horrifying videotapes of spiked medals being pounded into the chests of young paratroopers during punched into their chests. an illegal initiation rite were shown on American television yesterday (Ian Brodie

The US Marine Corps said it had opened an inquiry into the "blood pinnings". General Charles Krulak, the commandant said he was committed to ridding the corps of such heinous" behaviour.

The episodes in 1991 and 1993 were videotan NBC and CNN. They showed ourable discharge.

Marines writhing in pain as the points of their newly-won parachute wings were

The ritual, known as hazing, marked the victims' completion of ten jumps and their readiness for parachute duty. What made the scenes so sickening was the way the perpetrators kept beating the pins into the chests, even rotating them to make the pain more excruciating.

Nine of the 35 people identified in the 1991 episode are still on dub ticipants and obtained by courts martial or dishon-

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US bomb suspect filmed near van

Los Angeles: Timothy McVeigh, the chief suspect in the Oklahoma City bombing, was caught on video buying a hamburger yards from where a van used to transport the bomb was hired, sources have revealed.

The apparent breakthrough in the FBI investigation came when detectives spotted Mr McVeigh in footage from a McDonald's security camera, but the news was overshadowed by a damning report on the FBI crime laboratory in Washington, where a whistleblower has claimed sloppy work could jeopardize the inquiry.

So far witnesses have failed to agree on whether the suspect was at the garage in Junction City, Kansas, where the van was hired. The explosion outside the Alfred P. Murrah building in Oklahoma City two years ago killed 168 people.

Liberians give up weapons

Monrovia: Liberia's militiamen, who have held the shattered nation hostage during seven years of civil war, joined a lastminute rush to disarm in time for yesterday's deadline before elections due to be held in May. However, it looked doubtful that all would hand in their weapons on time. With estimates of the number of fighters ranging up to 60,000, fewer than 16,000 had disarmed by Thursday. United Nations monitors said that 15,519 gunmen had disarmed since the exercise began in November, including 3,397 child soldiers and 1,028 women fighters. The monitors said fighters had clamoured to give up their arms at 13 centres. (Reuter)

140-rape suspect charged

Madrid: Spanish police have charged a man named as Arlindo Luis C.C., 31, with raping 140 women over an eight-year period (Tunku Varadarajan writes). The man is alleged to have stalked the streets of Piramides, a working-class district of the Spanish capital, since 1988. His wife, unaware of his alleged crimes, was reported to be in serious shock. The man is said to have blamed his actions on ill treatment he had received from "snobbish girls in my class at high school who treated me like a bumpkin". When detained by the police this week, he said: "I am surprised it took you so long."

Banda faces £5.5m charge

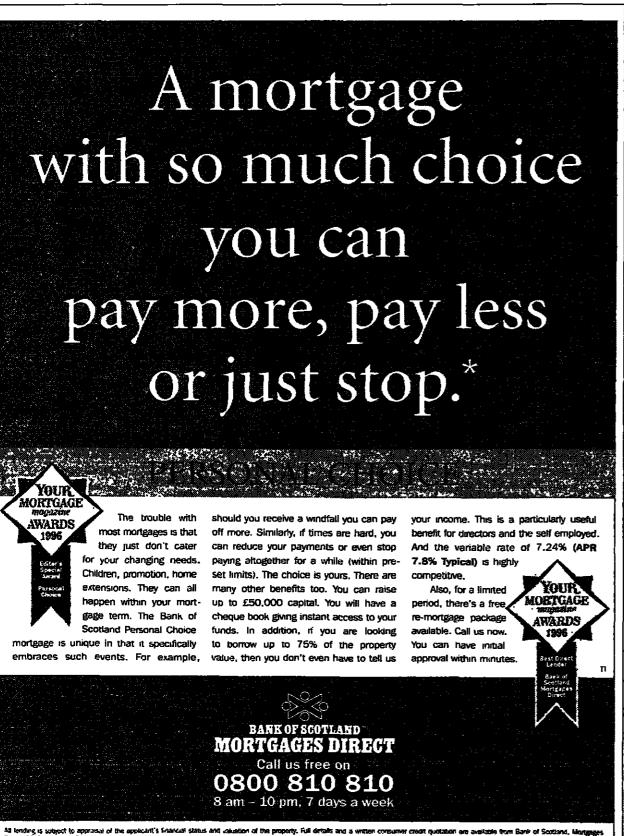
Blantyre: Malawi's former "President for life". Dr Hastings Banda, who ruled the country with an iron list for three decades until 1994, was charged with fraud involving more than £5.5 million. Dr Banda, who is believed to be 96, did not appear in court because of old age and ill-health. The case against him and three others will be heard in the High Court on a date to be set. Hundreds of supporters from his main opposition Malawi Congress Party demonstrated outside the heavily guarded court building. (Reuter)

West told to halt Hutu aid

Geneva: Officials in east Zaire have told Western agencies to suspend aid for 160,000 Rwandan Hutu refugees encamped near fighting between rebels and Zairean troops, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said. The agency's staff will meet officials in the Lubutu area to try to clarify the situation. Pamela O'Toole, an agency official, said here. "The refugees are in desperate need. Restrictions could cause tremendous problems." (Reuter)

Polio risk to be halved

Atlanta: A vaccine using drops on sugar cubes caused almost every case of polio in the United States between 1980 and 1994, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said. Of 133 people who contracted polio, the oral vaccine was to blame for 125 cases. A new regimen involving preliminary intections be s trus month and is ex - now one case for every 2.4 million doses. (AP)



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Ailing elite keeps faith with Dzhuna's spiritual remedies as state health system nears collapse

Mystic offers healing touch to friend Boris

sin celebrates his 66th birthday today, facing a bleak future dogged by constant health problems, one woman with special healing powers may offer his last

chance to make a full recovery and reclaim his empty throne. In a dingy clinic in central Moscow, Dzhuna, a dark-haired spiritual healer who favours an-kle-length fur coats and military uniforms, is convinced that powers she once used to help past Kremlin leaders could restore the

President to full health. "When I last saw Yeltsin at his

"behind us" may be put to the test

sooner than he thought.

by RICHARD BEESTON inauguration ceremony, I told him I was there to help him any time," she said. "I could certainly be of great use now. His health is a matter of utmost importance to the

MOSCOW FILE

future of this country." While sceptics may dismiss her healing abilities as quack medicine, her credibility among Russians, particularly the elite, is rock

ing, which was completed in 1985

Bugged by a sound bite MICHAEL HOWARD'S assettion this week that the spying war between Britain and Russia is ing's construction. The site is only a few hundred yards from the bug-ridden American Embassy build-

Behind the smiles of British and but never used. Russian officials attending the It was so riddled with KGB laying of the foundation stone of listening devices that it became the new British Embassy in Mosknown as "a state-of-the-art, eightcow on Thursday were the very real storey microphone".

ning with those seeking relief through the alleged powers of her hands, in a country where the state healthcare system has virtually collapsed, alternative

medicine, ranging from herbal cures to witchcraft, has become more and more popular.

Dzhuna, who was made famous throughout the former Soviet Union by her televised seances, was so admired by Kremlin doctors that she was asked to treat Leonid Brezhnev, the former Soviet leader, who remained at his job far longer than anyone had

To prove her connections in high places, the walls of her office are decorated with scores of photographs showing her posing beside Mr Yeltsin and his family.

Judging by the display, she also seemed particularly popular with the Russian military, who have awarded her the rank of general and even given her a ceremonial uniform. In some photographs she is seen inspecting troops with General Pavel Grachev, the for-



Dzhuna, the healer who says she can help President Yeltsin, meets him at the Kremlin

mer Defence Minister, and in another dancing a waltz with General Igor Rodionov, the

present Defence Minister. However, she complained bitterly that the present advisers around Mr Yeltsin were deliberately keeping her away from the President. "This country needs Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin] like the body needs oxygen and it is my duty to help," she said. "I believe that his family are in favour of me assisting, but those around him have conspired to stop me."

how best to get the Russian leader back to full strength after nearly eight months' absence, the authorities may conclude that it may not hurt at least to let her try her skills on the ailing leader.

Leading article, page 23

Premier's bear hunt chills rivals

WITH President Yeltsin removed from daily life, the spotlight has turned on Viktor Chernomyrdin, his loyal and avoncular Prime Minister, who until recently was widely regarded as too soft-hearted for Kremlin politics.

It may be time for a reappraisal after an incident which showed that the tubby Prime Minister can be just as ruthless and bloodthirsty as the other candidates vying for the leadership. The details emerged after a hunting trip on January 12 near Yaroslavl, north of Moscow, where Mr Chernolnyrdin shot dead a mother bear and its two cubs, which were awakened from hibernation

by a pack of hunting dogs.

Even in Russia, where the public is much less sensitive about blood sports than in the West, the account of the hunt has caused outrage and sent a chill down the spine of Mr Chernomyrdin's

opponents.

The sleeping bears were discovered by a park ranger, who was told that someone important from Moscow would be coming to shoot them. A makeshift mad was built, armed guards surrounded the unfortunate animals and Mr Chemomyrdin duly drove up and



Ancient sphinxes found in Cyprus

FROM REUTER IN NICOSIA

ARCHAEOLOGISTS on Cyprus yesterday unearthed several immaculately preserved which they said dated from the 6th century BC.

"Our team was working on maintaining the wall of a royal tomb there this morning and they found two lions, over life-sized, and a sphinx in immaculate condition." Demos Christon, the director of the Cyprus Antiquities De-partment, said. They were made around the 6th century BC . . . of limestone." The finds are at Tamassos,

site of an ancient kingdom with copper smelting workshops about 12 miles southwest of the capital, Nicosia. The lions are in a crouching position with their teeth bared.

One is missing an ear, while the other was found in three pieces. The sphinx was found intact. Museum officials said two more statues of lions and another sphinx were found later yesterday.

Mr Christon said the sphinxes were identical to those found in Egypt and noted that Cyprus was under Egyptian rule during the period concerned. Tamassos, a settlement be-

lieved to date from about 1200 BC, was one of 11 to 13 ancient inland kingdoms in Cyprus. They were replaced in the 3rd century BC by the Cypriot Commune, until the 7th century AD. "This find is additional evidence that the site was very, very important," Mr Christou

...from the

Best in the

twin festival

Moscow: Russia will play host to more than 4,000 sets of twins from nine countries at a six-day festival in March, Tass said yesterday.

Marina Parusnikova, the organiser, said the aim was "to try to penetrate the difficult spiritual world of twins and demonstrate their psychological peculiarities". Russia has two million of the world's estimated 60 million

twins.

Events will include two "mirror-image" football mat-ches, with twins divided into separate teams and playing in corresponding positions. Prizes will be awarded for ture and business. (AFP)

Russia to host | Chirac visit to bolster Yeltsin

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

THE Kremlin was last night putting the finishing touches to preparations for President Yeltsin's planned meeting tomorrow with President Chirac of France, the main aim of which is to persuade the public at home and abroad that the Russian leader is well

on the way back to full health. Mr Yeltsin's talks with M Chirac follow two appearances at the Kremlin this week, heavily edited clips of which have been shown on television. The President has lost weight and regained col-

our, but is still clearly weak. Presidential aides are leaving nothing to chance. Journalists hoping to cover the

talks have been denied access to the meeting. Officials de-clined to reveal where the talks would take place, saying only that they would be held in one of the official Kremlin residences. M Chirac will go to the talks straight from the airport and return home directly afterwards.

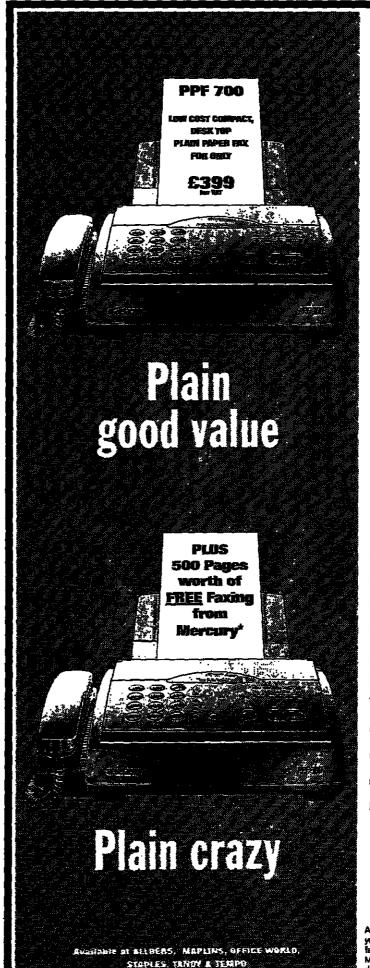
The officials refused to give any details about the duration or the agenda of the talks. "It will be on the lines of the Kohl visit." a spokesman said, referring to the brief visit early last monthby the German Chancellor, who held three hours of talks with Mr Yeltsin at his hunting lodge northwest of Moscow, just before the Russian leader's latest admission to hospital with pneumonia. Since his re-election last July, Mr Yeltsin has spent more time in hospital than at his desk and little has been seen of him since he was discharged from hospital on January 20.

Like Herr Kohl, M Chirac is strong supporter of Mr Yeltsin, and one of the main aims of the visit will be to reassure himself over the Russian President's health, as well as to help to bolster confidence in him in the West. Their talks are expected to concentrate on Russian objections to Nato's enlargement plans, a topic certain to dominate foreign policy for the next six months.









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THEATRE !

Timothy and Samuel West take the central roles in an epic staging of Henry IV Parts I and 2



■ THEATRE 2

. while in Manchester Contact Theatre revives Harold Pinter's classic The Birthday Party THE***TIMES



ON MONDAY

After 50 years on stage and screen, Jeanne Moreau takes stock of her achievement



ON MONDAY

DONALD COOPER

Where does Channel 4 go after Michael Grade? Melvyn Bragg considers the options

To room for seconds

fter its three-month march around Britain, English Touring Theatre arrives, like a medieval army, at London, and the experience of seeing both parts of Henry IV in a single day is too much like watching six hours of a pageant moving grandly past.

Although the high points

become gathered into a whole. there is, as in any procession, a repetition of effect. Another rebellion, another pleading woman, another jape upon Falstaff, another resolve to behave better in future. Take the plays on separate evenings is my advice.

The extra charge to these two plays. lifting their quality relative simplicities of historical dra-

ma, lies in their exploration of father-son relationships. Young Hal's own father is rancorous and reproachful; the fat knight offers an awkwardly wrong alternative. where the older man is also of lesser rank; and the Lord Chief Justice, although never likely to be affectionate, stands as a pattern for sobriety and

doing good. Stephen Unwin's production adds the further dimension of an off-stage father and son playing Falstaff and his surrogate offspring, Hal. Interestingly, for most of the time it is easy to forget the family relationship between Timothy and Samuel West. The two men are physically so unalike that generally it is only at the moments of such THEATRE

Henry IV Parts I and 2 Old Vic

physical contact as the joyful helly-houncing at Eastcheap that reminders of their kinship

When Falstaff is abused for his grossness — which he is, by everyone, throughout both Timothy West plays counters by seeming to pay no heed to the insults. He is aware of his bulk, and amusingly has to rock himself backwards and forwards before launching himself off a

sofa, but there is a sense that if he acknowledges what his belly has acquired he will be reminded of what his heart has lost. In the evening scenes set in Justice Shallow's Gloucestershire estate he at last becomes painfully aware of what is absent from his life.

West sits slumped in genuine melancholy. Prince Hal is a chilly fish, and Samuel West's demeanour shows that he takes in the mucky morals of the Eastcheap crew and is not taken in. It is in the restraints of Shakespeare's writing that

While Silence sings his ab-

surdly melancholy welcome.

he can never be shown thieving or whoring, only consorting with those who do. Yet West gives Hal so discriminat-

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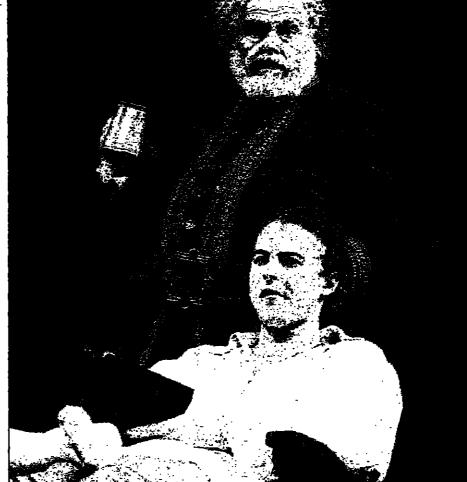
LATIONS INCLLIDING

imagine him revelling until those moments when, with a gurgle of joy, he abruptly doffs the divinity that hedges him.

The integrating aspect of his split personality appears in the scenes with Gary Waldhorn's old King, where he speaks with moving precision, especially at the bedside after trying on the crown. Here he presents the apologies and arguments of the verse as though the words are coming new-minted to his mind.

Pamela Howard's scenic design is well suited to a touring production, where the panelled walls look solid but undoubtedly weigh nothing, and swing open to reveal orchard or seashore. There is a vigorous Hotspur from Paterson Joseph, although he starts one speech on too high a pitch to take him through to its climax. I did not care for his Pistol, nor the last, raucous Eastcheap scenes. Paul Imbusch and Ian Flintoff are admirable as fruity Archbishop and the resolute Lord Chief Justice, and Joseph O'Conor's Shallow, toothily inventing past misdeeds, provides endearing comedy.

JEREMY KINGSTON



The family that plays together: Timothy West (Falstaff) and Samuel West (Hal)

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WHEN Harold Pinter launched his first major play, The Birthday Party, in 1958, the critics rammed it and the production sank like a lead balloon. Now it is hailed as one of the keystones of modern drama, and squats at one end of Pinter's career like some inscrutable monolith donated to us by beings from outer space. To the

tors who, if they weren't directing Pinter's texts, would undoubtedly be compiling fiendish crossword clues. This is a little unfair on Andy Farrell. whose production at the Dancehouse for Contact Theatre Company is faithful to Pinter's script without overcooking the reverence. There's a lovely dilapidated atmosphere about Simon Banham's seawnere me elgeriy proprietors. Meg and Petey, indulge their tenant, Stanley. Ducks fly up the walls and piles of old newspaper

moulder under the sideboard. A sense

connoisseur, what it means is far less

interesting than what it might mean. In

short, it's a play for committed specula-

The evil lives on

The Birthday Party Manchester

that dull lives are up for examination is cleverly suggested by a convex mirror that peers into the stage like a giant spy hole. Details like this score points with conspiracy theorists.

Even the breakfast routine becomes a high art form. Wearing a tatty dressing Evans's disgruntled Stanley sits between Petey and Meg while they surreally plough through ritual banalities. An argument over a cup of tea makes you

acutely aware of a sexual frisson between Doreen Mantle's Meg and the reclusive Stanley. As emotional co-ordinates change, certainties crumble.

Disorientation sets in with the arrival of two strangers with sinister intentions.
Malcolm Hebden's Goldberg spends too much time carefully fluffing his accent, while his unstable sidekick, McCann (Kieran Cunningham), puts the frighteners on Stanley, forcing him to celebrate a birthday he didn't know he had. Their overly calculated menace gives you the sensation of running

through treade. The performances, however, deserve scrutiny. Mantle is a wonderful mix of supermarket anxiety and cosy cheer. John Jardine's amiable Petey is tantalisingly reachable behind his newspooky disintegration with the intensity of a cornered fugitive.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER

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CHANGING TIMES

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FORT SCRUOR

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OPINION Farewell to your local cinema, as Britain breaks out in a rash of multiplexes



New museum reveal parallels between Brit. In in post-Roman

THE



COMEDY Eddie Izzard and chums test their wits in



GOING OUT

cinema last week. It's an Art Deco job, the architectural jewel of Hendon Central, and it's been modestly servicing the celluloid requirements of London NW4 for 60 years. The staff were apparently warned six days before the last reel rolled; the patrons had even less warning. By the time that anybody had thought of protest-ing, Mr Classic had sidled away.

It's also very puzzling for ordinary blokes. Why has our cinema, and hundreds like it, closed? Isn't this a boom time for films? Only ■ HERITAGE

shows in London. times and today

the quickfire atmosphere of One Word Improv

From Brahms to the Boo Radleys: entertainment for all tastes is in The Times Directory today

So much for customer care.
The whole thing is dammed irritating. Hundreds of kids walked — yes, readers, walked yes, readers, walked to that old cinema every weekend. Now in order to satisfy their appetite for intergalactic warfare, their supinely obliging parents must chauffeur them to some ghastly prefab warehouse on a retail park miles along the North Circular Road, because the local buses don't go there.

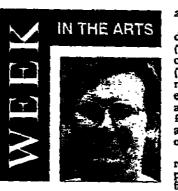
Not showing at a cinema near you annual British cinema attendances - the highest for decades at 130 million - will rise to 180

million by 2000. Well, the sad fact is that our old picture house was the wrong kind of cinema. It could screen only three films simultaneously, and even that tripartite division mocked its original, cathedral-like grandeur. What we need now, our eisure barons have decided, is cinema cities": multiplexes, usually sited by out-of-town shopping centres, that show a dozen films.

The race to erect these things is fierce. A decade ago, Britain did not possess a single purpose built multiplex. How did we manage? Now we have 900 multiplex screens, and a further 600 will sprawl across our green and pleasant land by 2000. Most will be vast. Virgin is building a megaplex in Leeds with 20 screens, allowing 5,000 punters to be "processed" simultaneously. Battersea Power Station is to become a 30-screen fun palace. There are two schools of thought

about this. The first - with which, as a member of the Union of Fuddy-Duddies. Fogeys and Nostalgists, I have much sympathy - abhors the rise of the multiples. Only last year the Environment Secretary, John Gummer, described our drift towards American-style shopping and leisure malls as a "disaster", leading to deserted town centres and yet more reliance on the car. But as usual Gum-Gum spoke loudly and wielded a weeny stick. The leisure barons simply nodded politely and then made their property deals as usual.

That's one objection. Another is that multiplexes often leave you dissatisfied. You go because you



RICHARD MORRISON

want to see the new Bruce Willis thriller. But when you arrive you find that it's sold out. So you drift into some syrupy Streisand comedv instead. This is called "choice", Which people who run multiplexes

Another thing they are keen to do is detain you as long as possible ("dwell time"), so that you buy lots popoorn at £2.50 a carron ("secondary spend"). That is why multiplexes now incorporate video-game arcades, even bowling alleys. Last year the British spent £612 million in cinemas, of which an astonishing £150 million went

on "secondary spend".
I wouldn't mind this so much if multiplexes spent more of their profits on cleaning up the debris from all this sweetle consumption. The litter-strewn Virgin multiplex at Staples Corner makes the average Tube station seem as pristine as a nun's wimple. Perhaps Mr Branson would care to inspect it the next time his balloon is passing Cricklewood.

Yes, multiplexes have many disagreeable qualities. Yet I sup-

port them for one good reason: the alternative trend towards hightech "home entertainment" is even more depressing. The imaginative world of many children is now cir-cumscribed by computer games and TV. "Video on demand" will soon send any film you desire straight to your living room. Preposterously large "home cine-mas" already offer you the "ultimate movie experience" while you slouch on your couch munching your dial-a-pizza. All these developments are deeply antisocial. They are killing whatever small shreds of communal life that urban Britain still possesses.

uch to their credit the cinema barons have an-▼ ⊥ ticipated this. They realise that people won't budge from their homes unless they are offered something bigger than they can

get from cable and satellite. Hence the attempts to make cinemagoing akin to visiting a theme-park: a whole raft of excitements. And hence Hollywood's current emphasis on blockbusters offering white-knuckle" thrills that simply don't work except in cinemas. Soon, say some experts, these will be the only films released through cinemas: all the rest will go straight to TV and cable.

That is still five years away. What's obvious now is how much effect the blockbuster mentality is already having on live entertainment. One reason why West End musicals and stadium rock events are so overloaded with amplification and scenic wonders is that their producers feel they must compete with cinema's noise and spectacle. But how do those in the spoken theatre, classical music and dance worlds entice punters out of their wired-up, digitalised living rooms? Finding an answer to that question is going to be the biggest challenge facing the arts in the next century.

The way we lived now

MUSEUMS:

Isabel Carlisle

on two new

shows with a

lot in common,

centuries apart

t is an amusing and far from pointless game to-speculate on which bits of our material culture will be around a thousand years hence. Because we produce so much that is durable and extensively written about, and because we live in an age of museums, future archaeologists may well be out of a job. More intriguingly, what rem-nants of life today will seem significant in the year 3000?

Two recently opened exhibitions drive home the truth that what is selected to be shown in about ourselves and how we see the past as about the cultures under scrutiny. The British Museum has, in Heirs of Rome, an exhibition that proposes that post-Roman Britain was not a barbaric Dark Age, but a period of rapid readjustment and multicultural assimilation. At the other end of the historical spectrum, the Museum of London has found space for a new permanent gallery called London Now, which tells the story of the capital from 1945 to the present day. The period that it covers could also be described as one of rapid readjustment and multicultural assimilation, of high anxiety and the end of Empire. There are further links.

Take money. Coins have always been important for archaeologists. They can be dated the face on the front shows who was in power, their worth indicates how rich people were and even, depending on the context in which the



Roger Mayne's photograph of The Soho Fair, taken in 1958, forms part of the Museum of London's new permanent exhibition, London Now

coins are found, what the political situation was. Heirs of Rome starts with hoards of money and precious objects, such as that from Hoxne, that were buried in the period of unrest during the withdrawal

of Rome from these shores. As consignments of coin sent by Imperial Rome to pay

the army and administration

were cut off in AD 410, the money in circulation dwindled to nothing and a coin-based economy only came back into being around 600, when An-

glo-Saxon gold shillings began to be struck.

London Now takes our currency for granted, and instead charts our 1996 spending pow-er in terms of bars of soap,

from imperial Leather at 49p to a creation by Jean Paul Gaultier at £20, suggesting a wide gull between rich and

Then there is transport. London Now gives us a Ford Cortina Mark I bought in 1965 for 1636. As the information panels point out, its affordability and that of a range of similar cars led to mass car ownership and on to today's problems of pollution and congestion.

In post-Roman Britain your personal transport was as much a status symbol as a car is today. From the Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Station Hoo in Suffolk come bridle mounts for a prince's pony embel-lished in gilt-bronze and silver. The style of ornament is taken from that of late Roman equestrian cohorts, a clear indication that, even two centuries after the Romans had left, visibly to ally yourself with Rome carried great symbolic weight.

then Pope Greg-ory the Great sent St Augustine to England on a mission to convert the inhabitants, he brought not only Christianity, but an assertion of the continuing power of Rome. It inspired Ethelbert I of Kent to have a written law code drawn up around 602, soon after his conversion. The code made not a jot of difference to his subjects, but as the oldest known document in English it made a great deal of difference to the development of our language and the way it was written.

Of course, what the Muse-um of London has in abundance, and our picture of Britain post-Rome lacks, are those ephemiera that make up the fabric of our daily lives and that, over the centuries, slip away into meaninglessness or vanish altogether. What were the Tennis Cakes for which a 1966 price tag was saved? Will anyone who never saw The contemporary society?" again and again. Is that what the Celts and Anglo-Saxons won-Flowerpot Men on TV really appreciate coming face to face with the puppets themselves? The handbook on Ecstasy will

● London Now, Museum of London, London Wall, EC2 (017)-600 3699). Heirs of Rome: the shaping of Britain AD 400-900. British Museum, Great Russell Street, WCI (0171-636 1555) until COMEDY

Not word-perfect, but sure to improv

DO NOT be surprised to see an ambulance pulling up outside the Albery Theatre during the next six weeks. Indulging in pure improvised comedy, prompted entirely by one-word topics shouted from the audience, must be exhausting

enough. But Eddie Izzard and his three colleagues also ran the risk of knocking each other unconscious while jousting with their stools (of the wooden variety, I should add) during one particularly strenuous mock-Arthurian sequence. Poor Stephen Frost soon regretted his decision to pick up one of the stage lights to use as a prop. I hope there was a supply of ointment in the wings afterwards.

That element of danger physical and psychological is, of course, what gives this kind of performance its edge. Line is it Anyway? presents this seat-of-the-pants humour in a relatively sanitised form, with chairman Clive Anderson always ready to rescue a struggling player by throwing in a brisk one-liner. One Word Improv revels in the possibility of failure.

And failures there were, particularly in an uncertain opening 45 minutes when it was hard to ignore the unease of the participants. Indeed, without Izzard's inspired presence the first half could very easily have fizzled out into a drab exchange of doubleentendres.

For all the smug talk about the brave new world of alternative comedy, the level of inspiration sometimes did not extend beyond a raunchier version of The Dick Emery Show, circa 1971. Then again, the rather sycophantic audience must bear some of the responsibility: it is hardly fair to expect feats of genius to flow from suggestions as predict"bananas".

When it works, though, it works brilliantly. One early exchange between Neil Mul-larkey and Suki Webster, on the unpromising theme of "wobble", took off into an Aristophanean flight of fancy. Apart from a stale gibe at Michael Howard, "jailhouse" made imaginative use of the bars at the side of the stage as izzard, the hardened recidivist, parodied every prison



Eddie Izzard: past master of the surreal thing

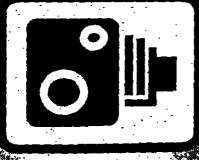
film ever made: "You screws are all the same," he taunted. You're all diagonal."

Mullarkey, rhyming squeegee" with "Bee Gees". came closest to matching Izzard's surreal invention. But Izzard, once again, stole the show during a cleverly observed schoolroom sketch. suddenly leaping into impersonations of the cast of the old

sitcom, Please, Sir. How many of the audience. I wondered, were old enough to catch such references? This is how it must feel to be

middle-aged. CLIVE DAVIS

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The Nature of Blood **Caryl Phillips**

be a mere curiosity one day.

but points to a major worry

today, and London Now puts

the question of 'How are we

going to solve the problems of

'A carefully crafted work, shifting seamlessly between past and present, and between different cultures . . . It is his boldest work to date, for a larger part of its boldness has to do with its artistry, the wonderfully measured pace of its unfolding. Phillips is a storyteller of considerable talent.' The Times.

> Caryl Phillips will be reading from The Nature of Blood in:

> > London

7.30pm 12 February

Purcell Room, Royal Festival

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of the most complex figures to have graced the study of economics. He was not perfect. Milton Friedman's view that he was a great economist but that Keynesian economics was "a failed experi-ment" is certainly tenable. But the continuing debate about the value of Keynes's contribution has nothing to do with the routine denigration of his ideas by ignorant scribblers. of which yesterday's story on the front page of The Guardian (also reported in later editions of The Times) is a prime

Literate readers of these newspapers will have been startled to learn that Keynes was a "racist snob with no time for [the] working class". For evidence they are referred to an "overlooked" paper on "Population" which he read to an audience of Oxford academics (including William Beveridge) in 1914. According to the Guardian reporter, this "may have remained unpublished because Keynes's followers wanted to preserve his liberal reputation".

Keynes and political correctness

The story is based on a sober article by Professor John Toye, published in the current issue of the Cambridge Journal of Economics. Beginning with Keynes's 1914 paper, it deals with views on the relationship between population growth and economic prosperity as they shifted during his profes-sional life. Professor Toye argues that Keynes's most recent biographers. Donald Moggridge and myself, have underestimated the neo-Malthusian strand in Keynes's

In his Essay on the Principle of Population (1798), the Rev Thomas Malthus had claimed that population growth was bound to outstrip the food supply. The only alternative to the "natural" checks to overpopulation exerted by famine, pestilence and war was what he called "moral" checks - in other words, abstinence from sexual intercourse.

The "neo-Malthusians" of Keynes's day turned this into an argument for birth control through contraception. However, earlier this century — before Hitler had made it politically incorrect — the Malibusian argument was usually Malthusian argument was usually presented in terms of the quality as well as the quantity of population. In other words, neo-Malthusians such as Marie Stopes were also eugenicists: both were part of the progressive army of the day.

The birthrate of working-class families exceeded that of middle class families, among whom the use of contraception was already widespread. This fact suggested to Keynes, and to most members of his impeccably liberal Oxford audience of 1914, that the quality of the population would deteriorate un-



John Maynard Keynes: racist?

less knowledge of contraceptive methods was spread to the working class. (As Toye notes, similar remarks by Keith Joseph in 1974 "almost certainly cost him the leadership of the Conservative Party". Keynes certainly called a

spade a spade. "To put difficulties in the way" of contraception, he said, "increases the proportion of the population has formed." the population born from those who from drunkenness or ignorance or extreme lack of prudence, are, not only incapable of virtue, but incapable also of that degree of prudence which is involved in the Keynes also dealt with the dan-

gers, as he saw it, of the increasing global imbalance between whites and non-whites, and the effects this would have on the food supply and thus living standards of Europeans. It was in this context that he ggested that stringent immigration controls might become necessary in the future. Keynes continued to apply this neo-Malthusian logic to post-war problems into the mid-1920s, after which he dropped it partly because his problem of inadequate demand, partly because population in Britain seemed set to decline.

Yes, of course, one can call these attitudes "snobbish" and "racist" if one wrenches them from their cul-tural context and totally ignores the welfare concerns behind schemes to limit population growth. One can even make them into a news story 83 years later by "spinning" them with garish headlines, hints of non-existent conspiracies, spurious links to new Labour's switch to Tory economic thinking" and the frisson that any mention of the Bloomsbury Group seems always

Although Keynes's reasoning may have been faulty in part, as Toye suggests, the issues relating population growth to food supply and capital stock are still very

much alive in the poor countries of the world, and are not without conteraporary resonance in Britain.
Within an overall decline in the
British birthrate since the 1970s. the share of births outside mar-riage has been steadily rising. to nearly 30 per cent of the total. A high proportion of these are to lone mothers on welfare benefit. So Keynes's concern with "quality" as it relates to wages, employment and the costs of the welfare state may not be quite so obsolete as political correctness would make

But the main lesson of this ignorant excursus into the past is that without the spin of "racism" and 'snobbism" and all the rest of the rubbish, there would have been no story. It tells us much more about the state of contemporary journal-ism than about the mind of John Maynard Keynes.

Lord Skidelsky is Professor of Poli-tical Economy at Warwick Univer-sity. He is working on the third volume of his biography of Keynes.

Red star over China-watchers

Jonathan Mirsky says Beijing wants

the press to ape the great Edgar Snow

ournalists, Stalin used to say, are "engineers of the human soul". The President of China, Jiang Zemin, was educated in the Soviet Union and likes this phrase, so it is regularly used by the authorities when they urge reporters to place themselves under "the supervision of the Party and the people". Reporters in Hong Kong pay a lot of attention to such injunctions as the July 1 handover nears, especially because they too have received instructions.

Lu Ping, the director of the State Council's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, says Beijing dis-tinguishes between "reporting" on certain subjects, such as the status of Taiwan or Tibet, which will be permissible for Hong Kong journalists, and "advocating" - that Tibet is not Chinese, for instance, or that Premier Li Peng's orders on the night of 3-4 June 1989 led to the murders in Tiananmen Square which will not

Foreign reporters in Beijing are also under pressure. Using the name "Peking" instead of Beijing, for example, is said to thwart the will of the Chinese people, although is printed by Air China or its baggage tags and is the word used by all Cantonese speakers, notably Tung Chee-hwa, who was recently selected in China's capital to be Hong Kong's first Chief Executive, after Chris Patten departs on June 30.

Beijing - or Peking - has offered foreign reporters additional advice: be like Edgar Snow. This eminent American journalist was the most celebrated of Western correspondents to report from China. In 1936 he made a dangerous journey to the cave headquarters from which Mao Zedong directed his guerrilla war against China's nationalist President Chiang Kaishek and the Japanese. His world scoop, Red Star Over China. included the only consecutive story - shaped as a heroic myth - that Mao was ever to provide of his life. It remains a key document of Chinese history. Long before Mao's seizure of power in 1949. Snow stated that his victory was both

likely and desirable. Not long ago, the official China Daily compared Snow with today's Western reporters, "who look everywhere for the seamy side of society". Be like Snow, the paper sug-gested, who "wrote exactly what he witnessed . . . The Western media are doing the opposite of what Edgar Snow did 60 years ago."

What was Snow witnessing and reporting? A corrupt and inefficient government despised by many of its subjects. But it was also legitimate and recognised internationally, and Snow was undermining it in his widely published international dispatches by championing dissidents armed with rifles. He was close to other dissidents too, students and young intellectuals, some of whom were Communist agents in danger of torture and execution President Chiang's Blue Shirts.

Can such subversion be what Peking wants from the newest gen-eration of reporters? Many of them side with political prisoners like Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan. write negative articles about the Chinese occupation of Tibet (which few of them are permitted to enter), and discuss the corruption of the Party and the disaffection of many peasants and workers. Nowadays this is regarded, in the words of the China Daily, as looking everywhere for the seamy side of society". In short, reporting on communist-led China today as Edgar Snow did on nationalist-led China in the 1920s and 1930s.

Snow's widow, Lois Wheeler Snow, lives in Switzerland. In 1970 she stood on the Tiananmen rosfor a photograph, signalling to Washington that Peking was seeking contact - which was established when Richard Nixon met Mao in 1972. Mrs Snow observed recently that although Chinese dip-lomats invite her. "I don't go to China any more. Not since Tiananmen. I have written to President Jiang Zemin. I can't put words in Ed's mouth, but I'm sure he'd support me. He'd agree that the Wang Dan trial was terrible. If Ed were in China now, he couldn't

write the way he used to." That would depend on which Edgar Snow was doing the writing. When he returned to China in 1960, 1964, and 1970, he again fell under Mao's spell. He denied in his reports that the Chairman had caused the worst famine in history, and he showed meagre interest in the plight of his old friends in prison. To his diaries, the elderly Snow confided that he "leaned to one side" - the side of authority.

But if in Jiang Zemin's Beijing, Snow were to recover his youthful zeal for investigating the "seamy side" of China; if he were to consort with what he once called "the better people", who today would be dissidents like Wei Jingsheng and Wang Dan; and if he were to predict their eventual triumph (as he predicted Mao's in 1936) - then that Edgar Snow would be denounced at once by Beijing as

Hook, line and sink her

The compleat angler must explain why salmon like the scent of women and men are outdone with the rod

Therefore salmon like sex. I was taught logic by an elderly tutor with a taste for girls, mouldy sherry and a seminar on "Saying" which he conducted entirely in silence. As far as I can recall he was not a fisherman, but he was a stickler for the rules of inference. He would have loved the correspondence now seizing readers of The Field, Its sensational March issue, out in two weeks, has come into my possession. It is exclusive to readers of this column.

The saga began with a letter in the January issue, in which "Anon" ruminated on his recent success on the River Shiel. An injury to his Achilles tendon has forced him to abstain from stalking. Despite

ll years of not catching a salmon, he decided to try one more time. For reasons wholunexplained

(hence the anon), he wound into his wife's pubic hair. Within a dozen casts he had caught

a salmon. Anon was now confronted with the problem that bedevils all fly-fishermen. A new fly must have a name. Hence the letter. "My problem", he wrote, "is not so much that I have run out of raw materials, but what to call this superb

Pandemonium ensued. For the first time, the editors of The Field have had to censor their letters page. Old-timers appear to have known of the magic hormone for years, yet kept it secret. Was not the great fly-tyer. Jock Scott, renowned as a ladies man on the upper beats? Charles Ritz wrote in the 1950s about how his luck changed on Norway's mighty River Alto when he took along a fertile laundrymaid. Oola, who embraced him before his first cast. Two salmon immediately appeared and he landed a 29-pounder. He credited his Arctic Wolfhair tubelly. Others

knew better. From the gentle Wye to the mighty torrents of the fiords, women have contributed actually or metaphorically to the snaring of the silvery beasts. Now no fisherman can open his flybox without a smirk or a shudder. The famous Hairy Mary has a new connotation. So do those old standbys, Adams Irresistible, Bonne Bouche, Yellow Belly Flexi, Wiggle-Nymph. Trois Temps, Thunder Stoat, Pot

romen catch more Scrubber, Shimmering Bruiser salmon than men do. and the dreaded Chayter's Drop-women are sexy. per In 1843, the Tweed's legendary William Scrope produced Meg-in-her-Braws and Meg-withe-Muckle-Mouth. What did he know? These flies were meant to

terrify fish, not man. In its February issue The Field still held back. Another "Anon" reported that his fortunes on the Garry had been transformed this year since marrying an "accommo-dating memsahib". Others turned to science. The fisherman's bible by Schmookler and Sils, Rare and Unusual Fly-Tying Materials of-fers no guidance, despite Sils being a woman. The Independent's indomitable fishing editor, Keith Elliott, revealed that a fly called Indispensible requires

"fine, glossy fuzz found in the neighbourhood of a ram's testicle". Tupp was clearly a man of parts. But this took the debate quite the wrong direction. So did the 16thshed, who repor-

ted in his Scottish Chronicle that on Lewis, "if a woman wade through the one fresh river . . . there shall be no salmon seen there for a twelvemonth after."

Next there was a rush to the altar of science. Pundits consulted the "king of the pheromones" (hormone excretions), Peter Behan of Glasgow University. His out-ofprint book on Salmon and Women wades where others fear even to cast, and was suddenly in demand. Salmon are known to have remarkable sensory mechanisms, enabling them to navigate thousands of miles across the Atlantic to feed and return to their birthplace to spawn. This homing instinct is based on the salmon's ability to smell specific components in fresh water at hundreds of miles' distance.

Professor Behan points out that for salmon, communication by chemicals would have a pivotal role in their survival, growth and reproductive success . . . It is quite possible that salmon could sense the sex hormones of women in the water and be attracted by them." The professor recounts one experiment where a group of men put their hands into a tank of salmon and the fish darted away. When women did so they crowded round. On this basis, the pheromone theory appears robust (but were these all male salmon?

The Field shows more courage. Readers raise the question of hair colour. Does a Spey cock salmon rise to a redhead and a Tweed one only to a blonde? Others worry about supply. Should a "pheromo-

nic salmon regime" be introduced under the common fisheries policy? What about set-aside? Once more it is nomenclature that rules the debate. Top titles include Lunar Rise, Magic Merkin, Frizzie Lizzy, Throat Tickler, Bush Baby and the inevitable Old Wives' Tail. I am told the unprinted ones are mostly variants on Pussy Galore and Fanny Peculiar.

The best letter is from Lord Burton of Dochfour, His lordship complains that the lure is clearly unsporting and should be banned by legislation. However, he recalls a leather blown from a lady's hat at Ascot which a friend made into six salmon flies of remarkable effectiveness. His name for the new fly is Royal Enclosure.

Women do appear successful at salmon fishing. The British record for a salmon caught with rod and line is still held by a woman, Georgina Ballantine. Her 64pounder was taken on the Glendelrine beat of the Tay in October, 1922. The epic two-hour struggle,

which continued into the night, was conducted with a near paralysed arm to a succession of male chauvinist comments from her father. (The tale is related in Jeremy Paxman's admirable Fish, Fishing and the Meaning of Life.) This catch narrowly beat that of another woman, Tiny Morrison, who took a 61-pounder from the Deveron, and Doreen Davey who took a 59pounder from the Wye. Most impressive was the record of most salmon caught in a day (26), held for many years by Lady Jane Joicy.

Anecdote, science and statistics thus appear to move hand in hand. The sceptics must now sustain two incompatible theses. We know that salmon do not take a fly as food but from some reflex irritation or compulsion. Fishermen will on the one hand fervently maintain that salmon fishing is largely a matter of luck. Buckland and Oglesby preface their encyclopaedia of salmon flies with the bald statement that "the final act of deluding the fish into taking your lure may have little to do with your choice of fly. It may simply be that you were in the right place at the right time." Fly design and fly-tying may be a glorious art, but it is quite distinct from the art of fishing.

Yet fisherman also believe that a marriage of craftsmanship and science does affect their catch. Why else would the Duke of Roxburghe lie on the bottom of his swimming pool to get a salmon's eve view of flies cast by his ghillie on the surface? I speak from some experience. The only time I fished seriously for salmon, in Iceland, saw me averaging one a day. A "scientific" fisherman who worried over every fly and every cast on the identical next beat took an average of five. This was not luck (and certainly not sex). Where one form of artifice works, so presumably can another. A hundred and seventy books on salmon in a fishing cata-

logue can't all be a waste of time. Izaak Walton warned that angling was so like mathematics that "there will still be more new experiments left for the trial of other men". What is clear is that in salmon fishing. 'more" luck is still not much luck. Salmon numbers are dwindling. and catching them demands a long wait for precious few minutes o sport. If there is a gender bias, I happily concede it. Besides, there are swings and roundahouts. If a woman sends a cock salmon wild with delight, what must she do for a great white shark?

MANAGERIA



Izaak Walton, author of The Compleat Angler: did he know of the latest fly-tying breakthrough?

I'm a guru

THE DUCHESS OF YORK appears to have a new financial adviser. Not so long ago, waxyheaded John Bryan was her toe-sucker-in-chief and money man. Now, she has the former Lloyd's broker and multi-millionaire restaurateur Nigel Fenner-Fownes.

Fenner-Fownes, an enthusiast for all things holistic, masterminded the duchess's current educational visit to India, from where she made a day-trip to meet a new guru, Sathya Sai Baba, "Ali" Baba, 70, frizzy-haired and saffron-robed, is a self-proclaimed mircle-worker with a worldwide web of followers and his own helipad.



New man Fenner-Fownes

The duchess is staving three

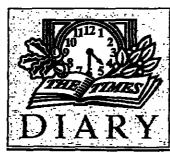
"fanhua" or anti-China.

hours' drive from his 45-acre estate with three personal assistants in a private villa attached to the Hotel Oberoi, Bangalore. It is unclear who is footing the bill but Fenner-Fownes, who is also there, has for some time been advising her on her financial problems and providing her with a list of lucrative contacts

The duchess and Prince Andrew have been regular visitors to Fenner-Fownes's Kensington mansion, where snooker is the after-dinner activity. Doubtless she would have popped her head round the door of his restaurant, the Hothouse in Wapping, were it not that The Sun is just around the

Obvious news

EITHER the people of Maidenhead are retarded, or else Theresa May, the local Tory prospective parliamentary candidate, just thinks they are. As I have reported before, Miss May likes to issue press releases about her activities. and they make the Smurfs look like Pushkin. Last time we met her, she



had been spending time with a local Norwegian vigneron. Now she has been to see Hitachi's European headquarters. The release takes up the tale.

informed that the "company spends \$15 million a day on re-search and development", Miss May comments: That shows an impressive commitment to constantly looking to the future and preparing for tomorrow's world today." Is she the evolutionary consequence of the soundbite culture devoid of irony, banal in the extreme, a robo-candidate? I must root out a picture of her.

 Presenting the comedy prize to the TV show Father Ted yesterday at the first South Bank Show Awards at the Savoy (on the north bank). Dame Barbara Cartland, a concerto in pink, clutched the trophy and looked around. "Where's

the person who gets this?" she asked. "Oh yes, I know . . . Father Fred."

In the forthcoming March issue.

Whatsisname

ETIQUETTE problems are bedevilling Ocean Rover, the lacklustre participant in the round-the-world yacht race, which announced this week that Prince Michael of Kent will be joining her crew on Monday for the Wellington to Sydney leg. Nobody yet knows how to ad-dress the Prince. In a force 10, when the mainsail needs hauling



"Is there a channel where England wins at cricket?

in, "Your Royal Highness" is too wordy and the captain cannot be expected to call him "Sir". Sugges-tions range from Captain Haddock, through Captain Bird's Eye to Micky and "Oi you!"

• Good news for mobile phone users at Millfield School in Somerset. The headmaster, Christopher Martin, who as I reported has banned pupils from using them. will be retiring at the end of 1998. Until then, pagers are all the rage.

Comfy chair

AS Norman Stone leaves stage right, Oxford's Europhiles retaliate with a new professorship: the Jacques Delors Chair of European Community Law, which has just been voted permanent by Congregation, the university's deci-sion-making body. The new chair, funded with grants from the European Parliament, will soon be advertised in the press.

Among those for whom Com-

munity law is an excuse to make okes about the Germans, this news has gone down like an oblong banana. "It is what the great Arnold Toynbee would have called 'challenge and response"." says Hywel Williams, John Redwood's righthand man. "Dispose of Norman and institute this sham. Typical."



 In fashion circles they are twittering with excitement over a rumour that the Sex Pistols manager and punk svengali Malcolm McLaren is to team up with Elton John to create a fashion mus-ical based on the life of Christian Dior (above) and his models (left).

Elton John, a Versace man, was not available yesterday; and McLaren, once married to Vivienne Westwood, was reticent. Nothing has actually been agreed on paper," he said with his bouncy natural perm. "but I would love it to happen. Flags will be flying from my rooftops if it does."



YELTSIN AND BREZHNEV

Why comparisons with Soviet leadership crises are misleading

The President of Russia has spent ten of the past 20 months in hospital, recuperating or on "vacation". So precarious is his health that each of the pathetically small number of engagements in his diary has to be marked provisional, whether it be a carefully prerecorded television appearance or tomorrow's planned meeting with Jacques Chirac. Kremlin statements that the Government is functioning normally attract the scepticism once reserved for Soviet propaganda.

Around him, vultures circle. Gennadi

Zyuganov, the Communist rival he defeated in last summer's presidential elections, clamours for his resignation. To the right of the political spectrum Aleksandr Lebed the man most likely to win if elections were held now - insists that Russia needs a new guiding star", by which he naturally means himself. The Duma, dominated by Yeltsin opponents, toys with impeachment. Opinion polls show that three quarters of ordinary Russians worry desperately about the country's future under an ailing leader, so much

so that four fifths think that he should retire. Russians and foreigners alike have taken to dark talk about the paralysis and stagnation of the years when three sick men -Leonid Brezhnev, Yuri Andropov and Konstantin Chernenko - succeeded each other in the Kremlin. It is becoming fashionable to say that just as that long leadership vacuum led to the collapse of communism, so the Yeltsin twilight now puts at risk both

democracy and free market reforms. If that is the best today's Kremlinologists can do, it is they who would do well to retire. Comparison with the Brezhnev years is meaningless, because it takes far too little account of how profoundly Russia has changed. In the first place, it is no longer ruled by a dictator. Within the Kremlin, power is distributed and, even though the Constitution still concentrates enormous power in Mr Yeltsin's hands, the engine of

government need not stall in his absence. The powerful Russian team at the Davos economic forum this week made precisely this point. Albeit with difficulty, they have

piloted the 1997 budget through the Duma's lower house without fatally diluting its radicalism. They plan a three-year programme of public spending cuts more drastic than any British politician would dare to put forward. By 2000, the aim is to reduce the level from the current 40 per cent of GDP -already lower than Britain's - to 25-30 per cent. In Mr Yeltsin's absence, the Government has also successfully reapplied the brakes to inflation, which is down to 21 per cent from 1995's 150 per cent. There is more order in the economy, too: Russian companies are starting to pay the taxes they owe. And there is more realism; the aim is to reach 5 to 6 per cent growth by 2000. For all Russia's huge problems — the unpaid wag-es, insolvent factories and Communism's horrendous legacy of pollution - this does

not match the picture of dangerous drift. The second and even more important reason why this is no second Brezhnev era is that the role of government itself has changed out of all recognition. Under Communism, all the levers of control were concentrated in the party and the State, with the Kremlin at the apex of a rigidly hierarchical pyramid cemented by fear. Contemporary Russia is still too much at the mercy of powerful cliques; a new corporate oligarchy has made the most of its pell-mell privatisation. But right through Russian society, capitalism has still brought a massive transfer of responsibilities and freedoms to millions of individuals. From street hawkers to the new class of financiers and industrialists, Russia is colourfully,

chaotically, pluralist. Where Mr Yeltsin's indisposition has most impact is in the conduct of foreign policy. That makes life difficult for Western governments. But for Russia itself, his limited participation in government could even be healthy. If he stays on in the background while others run the country, Russians may get used to the idea that they can manage without a "guiding star". The day that they accept this will be the day that Russian democracy truly comes of age.

GREEN AND SWAMPY

Road protesters trespass on local democracy

Blinking into the camera lights, matted and fetid, Swampy emerged from his troglodytic protest to claim that his bizarre burrowings had done more to draw attention to the commitments to reduce fossil fuel emissions. campaign against the A30 road scheme in . All this has earned John Gummer, the His claim may be true. But it is also true that his tunnelling and expensive eviction have aroused widespread anger, discredited the environmentalist case against new roads and undermined the democratic consultation process. More seriously, the antics of those nomadic campaigners who take to the treetons wherever a new road is planned delude many people into thinking that they are the brave warriors of an environmental movement that stands alone between our children's heritage and a government intent on concreting over the entire countryside. Nothing could be more simplistic.

ASSET BOOK

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Swampy and his friends are johnny-comelatelys in the argument over road-building. Since the initial protests over Twyford Down, the Government has responded adroitly to the concerns of environmentalists. It has broadly accepted the case for halting all roadbuilding except motorway improvements and those bypasses intended to save historic city centres from the destructive avalanche of heavy lorries. Facing down the road lobby, it has begun to introduce the kind of curbs on unrestricted private motoring unimaginable a decade ago. It supports the Private Member's Bill now going through Parliament obliging local authorities to set limits to the growth of urban traffic. And it has even taken unpopular measures, such as raising fuel and road licence taxes, intended to discourage unnecessary journeys, after the balance between private and public transport and help Britain to achieve its Rio

Devon than any number of letters to MPs. Environment Minister, grudging respect from environmentalists who have long seer the Conservatives as their enemy. Indeed, Labour will have to look seriously at its insouciance over the environment if it is to win the vote of a large block of young people for whom green issues are the single most important electoral consideration. Tony Blair, stung by a strongly critical report from Friends of the Earth last week, is to hold secret talks with environmental groups as part of a new strategy to drive green issues up his political agenda. What the Government has successfully

begun to make clear is that there is no simple green answer to road congestion. Ideologues repeat the mantra on improving public transport. But however much rail transport improves, as is at last now happening, it will be years before trains, trams and buses can curb, let alone reduce, the use of private cars. With the relentless build-up of traffic, something has to be sacrificed. Bypasses are not part of a plot to despoil the countryside: they are essential to stop town centres being befouled by fumes and shaken to madness. The decision whether to build a relief road is increasingly, and rightly, being left to local authorities after exhaustive public inquiries. The choice between saving a beauty spot or an historic city centre is often invidious. Professional protesters trespass on the rights of local people to decide how green should be their valleys.

PLAYWRIGHTS AS COPYWRITERS

Poets sing for their sponsor as well as for sweetness and light

The rediscovery of Ben Jonson's masque to advertise a shopping mall is a literary sensation. As we report today, Jonson wrote his "royal entertainment in praise of trade" to celebrate the opening of the first Burlington Arcade. And the goods which the second most famous poet of the age was commissioned to advertise have hardly changed. Crystal globes, silk flowers and china cats are still shopping bait, beside the gold swizzle-sticks and crocodile handbags. There may have been a better market for "beards of all ages" in 1609. But there is a better market for knitwear for all ages today.

In literature, Shakespeare and Jonson were on the cusp between medieval and modern theatre - and Jonson's mall was on the cusp between medieval and modern shopping. And let there be no shame on a famous playright for writing advertising copy. Jonson and Shakespeare were both poor boys who made good. They set the precedent for the independence of the literary profession. But neither was proud, or rich enough, to refuse a good commission. Were it not for anachronism, a cynic might suspect Jonson of product placement when he wrote in Every Man in His Humour "I have it here in Black and White": Lady Macheth's sleepwalking scene anticipated snap powder commercials. And "O! that this too too solid flesh would melt" should sell slimming potions or corsets.

Compared with the Jacobean entreprencurs, Brent Cross and the Metro Centre are strangely shy about employing contemporary writers as puffers. When asked what his plays were about, Harold Pinter memorably replied, "The weasel under the cocktail cabinet". A man with that gift for a phrase could write brilliant advertising copy. With only minor tinkering, the sinister intruder in The Caretaker could deliver a fine line for exclusive footwear: "Look here, mister, I said, I showed him these, I said, you haven't got a pair of shoes, have you, a pair of shoes, said, enough to help me on my way." Pinter's gift for the sinister beneath the ordinary commerce of life is already close to the tricky copy favoured by admen. "I can't drink Guinness from a thick mug. I only like it out of a thin glass." Beckett too had their gift for using language to express mood rather than to communicate.

Like Jonson, modern creative writers can place products and insinuate shopping lusts without the crude device of calling a play Waiting for Tesco. For advertising copy is the same medium as used by Shakespeare and Ben Jonson, Pinter and Beckett. Dorothy Sayers learnt how to create Sir Peter Wimsey from copywriting. Fay Weldon is credited with the slogan "Go to work on an egg". Salman Rushdie may have thought of "It's naughty but nice". Writing is a trade for all seasons. And all sponsors.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Spanish demands on Gibraltar

From Mr Andrew Stuart

Sir. Mr Rifkind was wise to reject the Spanish demand for joint sovereignty over Gibraltar (report, January 29), As the last British joint-Governor of the New Hebrides, I have only one piece of advice to anyone contemplating shared control of a single territory;
"Don't".

The Anglo-French condominium of the New Hebrides (now Vanuary) was more popularly known as the "pande-monium". With two very different governments in the same territory, the only thing we could agree on was which side of the road to drive; and that only after a series of nasty accidents.

Ironically Spain was involved in this at an early stage. The Spanish King had agreed in 1906 to appoint a neutral president of the Joint Court. That worked until Franco's Spain disposed of its king. In 1978 there were still cases that had been adjourned for 40 years. Meanwhile the Melanesian inhabitants remained technically stateless. One of their politicians wrote a sad poem entitled Who am 1?

And the New Hebrides ended in near chaos. The British wanted to put down a rebellion on one of the islands; the French on the whole did not. The only agreed policy of the Royal Marines and French Paras, under a French field commander, was to protect the pole on which the flag of Vanuatu was raised on independence day. A joint Gibraltar could be even more bizarre,

Stick with it, Mr Rifkind, if you want to retain your sanity.

Yours faithfully, ANDREW STUART (British Resident Commissioner, New Hebrides, 1978-80), Long Hall. North Street, Wareham, Dorset. January 29.

From Mr Mike Hancox

Sir. The question of the future of Gibraltar is indeed a complicated one, as your front-page report today demonstrates. Surely a degree of imagination on both sides could resolve this problem, as "sovereignty" becomes less and less meaningful a concept.

The people of Gibraltar should be allowed to express their opinion, by referendum, on independence from the UK; but with the proviso that British and Spanish heads of state would be the nominal joint sovereigns of Gibraltar in perpetuity. This could satisfy Gibraltarian desires for selfdetermination and resolve a source of tension between Britain and Spain.

A similar arrangement exists in Andorra where the French President and a local Spanish bishop are joint heads of state.

Yours faithfully. MIKE HANCOX 107 Fountain Road. Tooting, SW17. January 29.

From Mr Alf Lomas, MEP for London North East (Socialist Group (Labour))

Sir, You report (January 28) that Spain is furious about the visit to Brussels this week by the Chief Minister and other ministers from Gibraltar, and that the director-general of the Spanish Office of Diplomatic Information said that his Government saw "nothing normal at all in the visit by local authorities such as those of Gibraltar to the European Commission in Brussels". He must lead a very

sheltered life. There is a constant flow of local authority representatives to Brussels. The London boroughs have a permanent office there. In any event, Gibraltar is not a "local authority" and the Chief Minister of that country is only following the practice of his predecessors, Joe Bossano and Sir Joshua Hassan, who made frequent visits to Brus-

sels and Strasbourg. Whatever the present Spanish Government may say, there are many Spanish MEPs who see nothing wrong with this and, although having their own very strong opinions about Gibraltar's relationship with Spain. they are always cordial and friendly towards visiting Gibraltarians.

Spain should stop being so paranoise about Gibraltar and learn to live in harmony with its neighbours.

Yours faithfully. ALF LOMAS (Leader, Gibraltar in Europe Representation Group). Ground Floor, Queensway House, 275-285 High Street, Stratford, E15. January 28.

From Mr Colin G. Alston

Sir, As it is reported that Spain would like to share the sovereignty of Gibraltar with the UK can I assume that Spain is also in discussions with Morocco on sharing the sovereignty of its two North African enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla?

Yours sincerely. COLIN G. ALSTON, 9 Bickerton Road, Birkdale, Southport, Merseyside. January 29.

Weekend Money letters, page 43

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number -0171-782 5046.

Toyota's pressure on euro decision

From Mr J. F. Chown

Sir. The announcement by Mr Hiroshi Okuda, of Toyota, that he might divert investment away from the UK if we do not join the single currency (reports, January 30, 31) emphasises the unnecessary damage that could be caused by present political disputes. Those of us involved in practical commercial decisions must surely accept that (whatever our personal views) the euro may well go ahead, but without the UK. This could hurt our economy, but need not if we handle any opt-out sensibly, rather than emotionally.

UK companies which are part of an international group (whether as parents or subsidiaries) should be explicitly permitted to make up accounts in euros as a local or "functional" cur-rency and have these accounts accepted for tax purposes.

There is already legislation to permit this and a clear announcement would send positive signals to investors that they need not worry about currencies, and to our EU partners that we are keeping the door open.

Yours faithfully, JOHN CHOWN (Chairman), J. F. Chown and Co Ltd. 51 Lafone Street, SE1.

From Mr Dugald Barr

Sir, First-division multinational companies locate their investments where they believe they will secure the greatest competitive advantage. Various factors can affect this competitiveness: the total costs of employment, the skills, commitment and flexibility of the workforce, site availability and propinquity to markets, governmental inducements and others.

If other factors are disregarded, a depreciating currency must be an aid to competitiveness, and an appreciating one a hindrance. Toyota's president is implicitly suggesting that sterling outside the single currency might be stronger than the euro; otherwise, what could there be to worry about? This, of course, is what has been

constantly denied by the euro-currency enthusiasts, who resort to scare stories about the need for interest rates here to rise to prevent a catastrophic devaluation of the pound against

From the necessarily single-minded point of view of a UK-based exporter to the EU an appreciating pound out-

From the Deputy Chief Executive

Sir, The sense of desperation and iso-

lation which asylum-seekers in deten-

tion suffer cannot be underestimated (leading article, "Laws of asylum".

January 31). This is not the first time

that they have resorted to drastic mea-

sures to draw attention to their plight.

specified periods in British prisons

and detention centres without being

accused of committing a crime and

without an automatic right to chall-

enge that decision before an indepen-

dent judicial authority. Detention cost

approximately £20 million in 1996,

but the human cost for those fleeing

Dr Christina Pougourides, a distin-guished research psychiatrist, studied

15 detained asylum-seekers and pub-

lished a report in 1996. She found that

four had a history of torture and the

same number showed post-traumatic

stress disorder. Six of the 15 were

eventually recognised as refugees or allowed to stay in Britain for humani-

According to government statistics, on October 1, 1996, 75 per cent of those

asylum-seekers detained were await-

ing an initial decision or the outcome

The UN High Commissioner for

Refugees' guidelines state that asy-

lum-seekers should be able to chall-

Sir. Although the startling idea that

United Reformed Church members

are to be asked whether they think the

Cross should be replaced by a fish, an

egg or some other symbol of Christ-

ianity (report, January 27) may have

been inspired by Rupert Brooke's Heaven - "And under that Almighty

Fin, the littlest fish may enter in" -

the wrong piscatorial choice could be

From the 30,000 known types only

the angel fish or the flying fish spring

to mind as being possibly suitable.

Others - such as the coelacanth, the

'living fossil", or the electric ray,

which gives unpleasant shocks, the

sturgeon, with its gristly skeleton and

Sir, Certain statements in the article

'New drugs that lift the burden of

pain" (January 27) may unduly raise

the hopes of patients at present taking

aspirin and aspirin-like drugs - the

so-called non-steroidal anti-inflama-

The drug Mobic is not a new drug

therapy. It is similar in terms of its

action and selectivity to several other

NSAIDs, used for many years to treat

arthritis and pain. It, too, has the pro-

pensity to cause stomach ulcers and

The burden of pain

From Dr Ingvar Bjarnason

tory drugs (NSAIDs).

Fishing for symbols

From Dr Michael Straiton

tarian reasons.

of an appeal.

disastrous.

persecution is infinitely greater.

Asylum-seekers can be held for un-

of the Refugee Council

Plight of asylum-seekers in prison

side the European monetary union might be a negative factor (but not wholly negative; and in any case likely to be counterbalanced by other, noncurrency factors). From the perspective of the good of the country as a whole, it could be wholly beneficial. Europhiliacs who counsel adherence to EMU as a necessary corrective to the perceived tendency to chronic depreciation by the pound cannot have it both ways.

Yours faithfully, DUGALD BARR, Canning Place, W&

From Mr James Bourlet

Sir, Matthew Parris (Toyota and the Tory right", January 31) is to be applauded for pointing out that businessmen, including Hiroshi Okuda, should be accorded the freedom to state their views on controversial subiects in public.

But this is to ignore the greater problem, namely, how much notice should we take of views taken by those with commercial expertise on matters concerning economic assessments?

Can the interests of just one company represent the interests of all? To use an old phrase, is it true that what is good for General Motors is good for America?

One is reminded of a full-page advertisement in The Times back in the early 1970s when Sir Donald Stokes. then Chairman of British Leyland, daimed magisterially that EEC membership was good for Britain. "He knows", we all thought, "because he is one of our most successful business-

In the event UK membership brought in a flood of continental cars, the progressive decline of the domestic car industry and the eventual sale of the rump to BMW.

We are at fault in giving credulity to experts in one field who make pro-nouncements on another. And in any case, the fact that Britain's share of Japanese direct investments in Europe has fallen from 65 per cent in the 1960s to little over 40 per cent today suggests that, even for Toyota, we might be better off "out" than "in".

Yours faithfully, JAMES BOURLET, London Guildhall University, Department of Business Studies. January 31.

enge their detention promptly "before a competent, independent and impar-

tial authority". Neither the present in-

ternal review by immigration officers

nor the possibility of being granted

Sir, Ann Widdecombe, the Minister

for Prisons. in response to a parlia-

mentary question, referred to "our ap-

proach to those seeking asylum [as] a model of humanity" (Hansard, Janu-

ary 29, p367). Surely, if prison has a

proper place in any vision of a sane

and compassionate society, it is for

those tried and convicted of serious

The prospect of the death of asylum-

seekers in Rochester jail while on hunger strike is unacceptable. The Minis-

ter for Prisons needs to think again.

(Parliamentary Liaison Secretary), Religious Society of Friends

weak jaws, or the gasping lungfish --

could make those who advocate

Culver Farm, Old Compton Lane,

From the Very Reverend Alan Warren

Sir. The Reverend Colin Evans and

the commentators in your report seem

to have missed the key point. The sym-

bol of Christianity is not a cross but,

graphically, an empty cross - a sym-

their attendant complication of seri-

ous bleeding which account for some

20,000 hospital admissions in the UK

annually. Unfortunately the new class

of drugs to control pain and inflama-

tion which hold the promise of enhan-

ced safety are still undergoing clinical

trials and are unlikely to be available

Department of Clinical Biochemistry,

to the public for at least two years.

bol not of death but of resurrection.

Yours truly, MICHAEL BARTLET

173-177 Euston Road, NWI.

change a laughing stock.

MICHAEL STRAITON,

in Britain.

January 31.

Friends House.

Yours sincerely

Farnham, Surrey.

Yours faithfully,

9 Queens Drive,

Yours faithfully,

(Senior Lecturer).

INGVAR BJARNASON

King's College School of

Medicine and Dentistry,

Bessemer Road, SE5.

January 27.

ALAN WARRÉN,

Hunstanton, Norfolk.

bail fulfils this aim.

Deputy Chief Executive, The Refugee Council,

From Mr Michael Bartlet

Yours sincerely

KATE ALLEN

3 Bondway, SW8.

January 31.

Sharing out the millennium prizes

From Mr Tim Bullen

Sir. The Chairman of the Millennium Commission, in her letter of January 28, paints a series of charming idylls which prove, not undermine, the essential truth of Melvyn Bragg's com-ments ("Why is London winning all the prizes?", January 20).

is her catalogue of good deeds and works not for the whole nation to enjoy or, by example, are the various millennium forests that she lists only for the exclusive use of Scots, Lancas trians or Black Country dwellers? It is playing games to select what counts as national enrichment as opposed to

regional cultural support. Greenwich is part of Greater London and nowhere else. Add the £200 million for Greenwich to her own figures and the share of the Millennium Commission cake going to London is 41 per cent. This figure represents well over twice the total grant allocated so far to the North of England.

Yours faithfully, TIM BULLEN. 6 Broadhurst Gardens, Reigate, Surrey. January 29.

From Mr Ronald J. Richards

Sir, The Prime Minister is proposing to announce a one-off extra day's holi-day to celebrate the millennium (report, January 29). Can we expect Lab-our's response to be that they will need to review this if they form the next government?

If the £60 million for a new Britannia (letters, January 24, 27, 28, 29) so upsets Mr Brown's delicate budgeting, the loss of a day's work output across the country, with the subsequent loss of tax revenue, would surelv wreck it.

Yours faithfully, RONALD RICHARDS, Hadley Cottage, 17 Copp Hill Lane, Budleigh Salterton, Devon. January 29.

From the Reverend Graham Blacktop

Sir. Dare one hope that the politicians who order such things will be sufficiently enlightened to add the extra day to the appropriate Christmas or Easter holiday, when we shall, as usual, commemorate the birth, death and resurrection of the person originally responsible for the prevailing millennium hype?

Yours taithfuil GRAHAM BLACKTOP, Dairy House, Wolfeton, Dorchester, Dorset. January 29.

From Mr Steve Hare

Sir, Given the frantic scrabbling to secure funding for the Millennium Exhibition at Greenwich (reports, January 16, 17, 18), might some particularly far-sighted philanthropist now be persuaded to deposit a modest sum in an interest-bearing account?

Maturing in the year 3000, this might ultimately be adequate to fund a whole host of obelisks, domes and big wheels.

Yours sincerely. STEVE HARÉ. 52 Church Road, Derry Hill, Nr Calne, Wiltshire. January 20.

From Mrs Felicity Crawley

Sir, Could we not celebrate the millennium with a new bridge at Hammer-

Yours truly, FELICITY CRAWLEY, 36 Wilmington Avenue, Chiswick, W4. January 31.

Valid yows

From Canon D. T. W. Price

Sir, According to Halsbury's Ecclesiastical Law. if persons knowingly and wilfully consent to or acquiesce in the solemnisation of their marriage by a person who is not in holy or-ders, the marriage is void, but it would be otherwise if he was believed to be in holy

orders If Rod Earnshaw and Shirley Wilson believed that the young church server (a Lampeter history undergraduate) who conducted their wedding at Golcar, West Yorkshire, was in holy orders (reports, January 30, 31), it seems to me that their marriage is valid.

Yours faithfully WILLIAM PRICE. Bodlondeb. 65 Bridge Street. Lampeter, Dyfed, January 30.

Off with their heads

From Canon Bertie Webb

Sir, My brother had the perfect solution to pubs serving him underfilled pints (News in brief, January 28). In 1946 he took me for a drink. Served with frothing pints he asked the barman "Can you get a double-scotch in these?" "Certainly, Sir," the barman said. "Well, kindly fill them up with beer" retorted my brother.

Yours faithfully, a. Webb, 2 Dolphin Close, St John's, Worcester. January 29.

ا برای است. ما مساکند و از مسید در شمید و کارسط جور به املیان استفاده این است.



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK January 31: The Duke of Edin-burgh this morning left Royal Air Force Marham for Germany to attend the Funeral of Princess Margaret von Hessen und bei

His Royal Highness arrived at Royal Air Force Marham this Sir Brian McGrath was in

BUCKINGHAM PALACE January 31: The Princess Royal this morning visited Riding for the Disabled (Hong Kong), Pokfulam

Phasinet (riong Rough, Postularin Riding Stables. Her Royal Highness today opened the British Education Ex-hibition and attended a Luncheon at the Convention and Exhibition Centre, Wanchai.

The Princess Royal this evening left Hong Kong for Heathrow

CLARENCE HOUSE January 31: Queen Elizabeth The London WI.

KENSINGTON PALACE January 31: The Princess Margaret. Countess of Snowdon, President, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, was present this afternoon at a Reception to mark the launch of the Judges' video, 'A Case for Balance' held at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George

Queen Mother was represented by the Viscount Churchill at the

Memorial Service for Dame Diana Reader Harris which was held in

Sherborne Abbey. Dorset, this

Street, London, SWI. THATCHED HOUSE LODGE January 31: Princess Alexandra, accompanied by the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this evening attended a Friday Evening Discourse given by Sir Arnold Wolkendale at the Royal Institution

Church news

Bishop of Worcester The Right Rev Peter Stephen Maurice Selby, William Leech Professorial Fellow, Durham University, and Assistant Bishop in the dioceses of Durham and Newcastle, to be Bishop of Worcester in succession to the Right Rev Philip Harold Ernest Goodrich,

The Rev Michael Evans, Priest-incharge. St Thomas, Kirkby-in-Ashfield: to be Vicar, St Thomas, Kirkby-in-Ashfield and continue as Chaplain to the Ashfield Com-

munity Hospital (Southwell). The Rev Diana Fisher, Assistant Curate (NSM). East Leake, West Leake, Stanford-on-Soar. Rempstone and Costock: to be Assistant Curate (NSM). West Bridgford, St Giles (Southwell). The Rev Andrew Foran, Team Vicar, Canvey Island (Chelmsford): to be Assistant Curate, St Martin. Dorking and part-time Chaplain to HM Prison, Send (Guildford).

The Rev Jonathan Frost, Assistant Curate. West Bridgford (Southwell): to be Rector, Ash (Guildford). (Southwell): now Chaplain to HM The Rev Stephen Gallagher. Rec-Prison, Wakefield (Wakefield).

tor. Loftus-in-Cleveland and Carlin How w Skinningrove (York): to be Friest-in-charge, Lower Beeding and Youth Officer, West The Rev David Gorick, Associate

Priest, Gotham, St Lawrence: to be Priest-in-charge, Gotham, St Lawrence (Southwell). The Rev Tony Green, Assistant to the Rural Dean of Rye: to be Priest-in-charge. Groombridge (New)

(Chichester). Canon Roger Greenacre, Chan-cellor of Chichester Cathedral: to be Precentor of Chichester Cathe-

dral (Chichester). The Rev Stephen Hardie. Team Rector, Dovercourt and Parkeston: to be also Rural Dean of Harwich

The Rev Andrew Hawthorne, Assistant Curate, Christchurch (Winchester): to be Team Vicar. Dorchester Team Ministry (Salisbury).

The Rev Mark Hayton, Rector, Broadstairs Holy Trinity: now also Rural Dean of Thanet

The Rev Alan Hirst, formerly Chaplain. HM Prison, Ranby

University news

Dr John Priestley, Reader in Chemical Neuroanatomy at UMDS, to the Chair of Cell Biology in the Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences, St Bartholo mew's, and the Royal London chool of Medicine and Dentistry,

from January I, 1997. Dr A J L Clark Resder in Molecular Endocrinology in the Faculty of Clinical Medicine, St Bartholomew's, and the Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry, to be Professor of Molecular Endocrinology.

Mrs Sarah Everett, Secretary to the Joint Medical Advisory Committee, HEFCE, to be Secretary (Medicine and Dentistry) from February 10, 1997.

Honorary Degrees will be con-ferred on the following: DLit: Professor Malcolm Bowie, FBA, Marshal Foch Professor of French Literature, Oxford Univerformerly Professor of French Lan-guage and Literature and Head of the Department of French, Queen Mary College.

DSc(Eng): Sir Gordon Higginson, formerly Vice-Chancellor of Southampton University: Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Interdisciplinary Research LLD: Lord Steyn, Lord of Appealin-Ordinary; formerly Chairman of the Advisory Council of the

Centre for Commercial Law Studies. DLit: Miss Janet Suzman, formerly Visiting Professor of Drama, Westfield College.

The following have been elected Honorary Fellows: The Hon Peter Brooke, CH, MP for the City of London and West-Sir John Chalstrey, formerly Lord Mayor of London: formerly Senior

Lecturer in Surgery, St Bartholo-mew's Hospital Medical College. Professor Lord Currie of Maryle-bone, Professor of Economics, London Business School; formerly Professor of Economics and Dean of the Faculty of Social Studies, Queen Mary College.
Dame Anne Mueller, former member of Council.

Professor Roy Duckworth, for-merly Dean of the London Hospital Medical College. Dr John Horder, former President of the Royal College of General Practitioners.
Professor Adam Neville, former

Principal of the University of Dundee.

General Dental Council. Dr Joan Thirsk, former Reader in Economic History, Oxford University. St George's Healthcare NHS Trust; Director, HMV and Norwich Union; Visiting Professor, Department of Political Studies;

former Reader in Government and Politics and Head of the Depart-

ment of Political Studies. Queen

DEATHS

Weekend birthdays





Josceline Dimbleby, cookery writer, is 53 today: Ken Bruce, the broadcaster, will be 46 tomorrow

John Laing, 79; Sir Stanley Mat-thews, footballer, 82: Lord Mountevans, 54; Sir John Nott, former MP, 65; Professor Sir Mark Richmond, FRS, former chairman, Science and Engineering Research Council, 66: Mr Peter Sallis, actor,

Anniversaries

The Soviet Union was formally recognised by Britain, 1924.

The Pompidou Centre in Paris,

designed by Richard Rogers and Renzo Piano, was opened, 1977.

BIRTHS: Nell Gwyn, actress and mistress of King Charles II. Her-eford, 1650: Charles Maurice de

Périgord, France, 1754; Henry Havelock Ellis, physician and writer. Croydon, London, 1859;

Fritz Kreisler, violinist, Vienna, 1875; James Joyce, novelist, Dub-

lin, 1882; James Stephens, poet and novelist, Dublin, 1882; Jascha Hei-

DEATHS: Baldasarre Castiglione,

diplomat and writer, Toledo, 1529;

Giovanni Palestrina, composer, Rome, 1594; Francis Hayman,

painter, London, 1776; Dmitri

fetz, violinist, Vilna, 1901.

opened, 1910.

TOMORROW

76; Mr Andrew Smith, MP, 46; Dame Muriel Spark, writer, 79; Sir Peter Tapsell, MP, 67; Miss Renata Tebaldi, soprano, 75; Sir Robert Walmsley, former Controller of the Navy, 56; Ms Anne Weyman, chief executive officer,

Mendeleyev, chemist, St Peters-

hurg, 1907; John L. Sullivan, bare knuckle fighter, Abington, Massachusetts, 1918; Sir Owen Seaman, Editor of Punch 1906-32,

London, 1936; the Rev James Owen

Hannay (George Birmingham), novelist, London, 1950; Buddy

Holly, singer and songwriter, died in an air crash, near Mason City,

Iowa, 1959; Bertrand Russell, 3rd Earl Russell, mathematician and

philosopher. Plas Penrhyn.

Merionethshire, 1970; George Whipple, pathologist, Nobel laureate 1934, New York, 1976.
Ireland was represented in the British Parliament for the first

Greece declared war on Turkey.

The state funeral of Queen Vic-

Major-General Idi Amin declared

himself the absolute ruler of

time, 1801.

toria, 1901.

Family Planning Association, 54; Mr Boris Yeltsin, President of the Russian Federation 66 TOMORROW:

Mr Roger Brooke, chairman Candover Investments, 66: Sir Gordon Bryce, former Chief Jus-tice of the Bahamas, 84: Mr Denis Cassidy, charman, Liberty, 64: the Earl of Clarendon, 64: Dr Mac-Earl of Clarendon, 64; Dr Mac-donald Critchley, neurologist, 97; Mr Andrew Davis, conductor, 53; the Rev Dr Victor de Waal, former Dean of Canterbury, 68; Lord Eatwell, 52; Mr Abba Eban, Israeli politician, 82; Dr Tony Flower, economist, 46; Sir Norman Fowler, economist, 40; Sir Norman rowier, MP, 59; M Valéry Giscard d'Es-taing, former President of France, 71; Mr Hughie Green, broad-caster, 77; Mr H.V. Hughes. former Principal, Royal Agri-cultural College, Cirencester, 71; Mr David Jason, actor, 57; Mr David Jones, chief executive, Next. 54: Sir Chips Keswick, chairman. Hambros Bank, 57; Dame Alix Meynell, former civil servant, 94;

Dr John Merlin Thomas

Miss Elaine Stritch, actress, 70.

There will be a Memorial Service for John Merlin Thomas, MA, DPhil, Scholar of New College, 1938-41, Fellow 1953-87, Emeritus Fellow 1987-96, on Saturday, March 15, 1997, in New College Claude 22 200-200. Chapel at 3.00pm.

Latest wills

Hugh Prescot Morle, of Willingdon, Eastbourne, Sussex, left £1,290,049 net. He left £20,000 to the Brilish Red Cross Society, and to the RNIE: £15,000 each to the Mental Health Foundation, Age Concern England, the Cancer Research Campalgn, and the RSPCA.

Ivona Jessie Mays-Smith, of Herringswell, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, left £1,462,668 net. She left £500 to the Ali England Ladies Lacrosse Association and to the Royal Worlington Golf Club; £250 to any person employed in her service.

Memorial services

Dame Diana Reader Harris Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was represented by Vis-count Churchill at a service of celebration and thanksgiving for the life of Dame Diana Reader Harris, Headmistress of Sherborne School for Girls 1950-75, held yesterday in Sherbome

The Rev Eric Woods officiated and the Very Rev the Hon Hugh Dickinson led the prayers. Miss Anne Dixon, Senior Trustee of Sherborne Old Girls Union, read the lesson. Mr Christopher Lucas and Ms Sylvia Read, of Theatre Roundabout, read from Dame

Diana's own writings.

Mr Christopher Buston, cousin, paid tribute and the Right Rev John Taylor gave an address.

Members of the family, Miss June Taylor (headmistress) with many Old Girls, governors, past and present members of stall, representatives of organisations which Dame Diana had been connected, and many friends were among those present.

Vice-Admiral Sir Hugh

The First Sea Lord was represented by Rear-Admiral Frederick Scourse, Acting Controller of the Navy, held yesterday in Bath Abbey. Prebendary Richard Askew officiated, assisted by the Rev Richard Hall

Rear-Admiral Scourse, Mr Patrick Thompson, son, Commander N.D.B. Williams and Sir Robert Easton read the lessons. Rear-Admiral Robin Shiffner gave an address.

Dinner

The Earl of Lauderdale Lady Olga Maitland, MP, President of the Defence and Security Forum (incorporating Families for Defence), was the host at a dinner given last night at the House of Lords by courtesy of the Earl of Lauderdale. Mr Terry Waite was the guest speaker.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D. Carratu and Miss G. Elwoo

The engagement is announced between Domenic, son of Mr Tony Carratu and Mrs Bridget Carratu. of London, and Geraldine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ray Elwood, of

Mr A.C. Hunter and Miss C.L Dennis

herween Andrew (Chuffy), elder son of Mr and Mrs Marin Hunter, of Lincoln, and Lucy. younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Dennis, of Alresford, Hampshire.

Mr A.J. Sciater

and Miss A.M. Oliver
The engagement is announced between Alastair, son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Sciater, of Stalbridge. Dorset, and Anne, daughter of Mr Geoffrey Oliver and the late Mrs Carmel Oliver, of Adelaide.

Mr P.A. Wolrige Gordon and Miss S.L.E. Edwards The engagement is announced between Patrick Adam, son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Wolrige Gordon, of Ythan Lodge, Newburgh, Aberdeenshire, and Sarah Louise Elizabeth, daughter of Dr Elizabeth Edwards, of High Bannerdown, Batheaston, Bath.

Service dinner University of Wales Air

Squadron
Air Marshal G.A. Robertson, Chief of Staff. Headquarters Strike Com-mand, and Professor Keith Robbins. Senior Vice-Chancellor, University of Wales, were the guests of honour at the annual dinner of the University of Wales Air Squadron held fast night at RAF St Athan. Squadron Leader Andy Cairneross, Commanding Of-Andy Cairneross, Commanding Of-ficer, presided. The Lord-Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, the Air Officer Commanding and Commandant RAF College Cranwell, and the Vice-Chancellors of the University of Wales, Bangor, Cardiff, and Swan-sea, and the Air Officer, Wales, were

Church services tomorrow

Eighth Sunday before Easter ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL ABERDEEN: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch, Phrygian Mode (Wood). Nunc Dimitits (Gibbons). The Provost; 6.30 Choral ES, Stanford in G, When to the temple

physicist, 69; Mrs Virginia Elliot.

three-day eventer, 42; Mr Don Everly, singer, 60; Sir Douglas

Hall, former Governor, Somali-land Protectorate, 88; Sir Gordon

Hobday, former Lord-Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire, 81; Mr Adam Ingram, MP. 50; Professor Doug-las Johnson, historian, 72; Sir

Maurice Laing, life president,

BIRTHS: Sir Edward Coke, jurist and politician. Mileham, Norfolk,

1552; John Philip Kemble, actor

manager, Prescot, Lancashire, 1757: Dame Clara Butt, contralto,

Southwick, Sussex, 1873; John Ford, film director, Cape Eliza-beth, Maine, 1895; Stephen Potter, humorist, 1900; Clark Gable, ac-

tor, Cadiz, Ohio, 1901; S.J. Per-elman, humorist, Brooklyn, 1904.

DEATHS: René Descartes, philos-

opher, Stockholm, 1650; Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, novelist, London, 1851; George Cruikshank, caricaturist, London, 1878; Piet

Mondrian, painter, New York, 1944; Buster Keaton, silent film comedian, Woodland Hills,

California, 1966. The US Supreme Court met for the

The first volume of the Oxford

English Dictionary was published,

first time, 1790.

TODAY

Choral ES, Stanford in G, When to the temple (Eccard).

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 S Euch & Holy Baptism, Rejoice in the Lord alway (Anon). Jackson in G, ave verum corpus (Byrd): 3.30 Liturgy for Cardlemas, Fauxbourdons (Tallis), What Cheer, Good Cheer (Warlock), Ave Regina (Lotti), See see the world is incarnate (Gibbons), When Jesus our Lord was born (Mandelssohn).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP. 9.15 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Blair in G, Wakefield Service Canted, Tanum ergo (Durufié, Rev D Lee: 4 Choral E, Sumston in G, The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Eccard); 5.30 Asian Christian Service.

BIACKBURN CATREDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Choral M, Lord now lettes thou thy servant depart in peace (Stanford), Canon Hindley; 4 Choral E. When Mary to the temple came (Eccard), Canon Gaillee.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Holy Euch: 11 M. BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Holy Euch: 11 M.

Carrier Games.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Holy Euch; 11 M
When to the temple (Eccard), The Dean; 3.30
E. Purcell in E. minor, God is light and in him
there is no darkness. here is no darknes BRISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green: 7.40 M; 8 HC: 10 Choral Euch & Confirmation, The Gloucester Mass (Shephard), Author of life divine (Archer), The Bishop of Swindon; 3.30 Choral E. Collegium Regale (Howells). The spirit of the Lord (Elgan, Canon J Simpson.

SIMPSON.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 M: 9.30 S Buch: 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis In C (Sputzenmesse). Lumen ad revelationen (Byrd), Rev P Brett, 12.30 Holy Baptism: 3.15 E. Senez puerum portabat (Byrd). Second Service (Cilbbons). When to the temple (Eccard): 6.30 Compline.

E. Senez puerum portaoai (syrtu. Securio Service (Gibbons), When to the temple (Eccard): 6.30 Compiline.

CARLISIE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Mil Fried und Freund Ich fahr dahlin (Buxtehude). Schubert in G. Te Deum (Reger). Archdeacon D Turnbull; 3 EP; 6.30 S Euch, Jackson in G. O taste and see (Vaughan Williams).

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC. Canon B Thompson: 9.30 Euch & Parade, Rev J Jones: 11.15 S Euch, When to the temple (Eccard). Wood in F, Canon B Thompson: 6 Choral E, Set me as a seal (Walton). Blessed City (Bairstow). Rev I Moody.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Litany, Rutter in D, Are verum corpus (Byrd). Rev C Samuels: 11.30 Choral M, Leighton In D, Let all the world (Leighton), Canon J Newcome.

3.30 Choral E, Set Paul's Service (Howells), When to the temple (Eccard): 6.30 Evening. Canon J Newcome.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 10 M, Te Deum (Yaughan Williams) in GJ, Jubiliare (Walton). Let thy merciful ears. O Lord (Mudd), The Treasurer: 11 S Euch, Missa Sancti Nicolai (Haydn), Surge Illuminare (Palestrina), The Chancellor: 300 E, Stanford in A, Hodie cum gaudio (Bouzignac).

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. Canon M Sermon. Benedicte (Jackson in G), Rev Prof M Wiles: 11.15 Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd). O Lord the maker of all thing (Mundy), Canon Jelfery: 6 E, Stanford in C, When to the temple (Eccard).

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. Canon M Perry: 10 M, The Short Service (Gibbons). Senez puerum portabat 4 S (Byrd), Canon D Hodgson: 11.15 HC. Mass in G (Schubert). Senez puerum portabat 4 (Byrd). The Dean: 3.30 E, Nunc dimittis (Holst), When to the temple (Eccard).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC, Rev. J. Inge; 10.30 S. Euch, Mass (Stravinsky), Ave regina coelorum (Finnlssy), Rev. J. McFarlane: 3.45 E. Candlemas Procession, Collegium Regale (Tavener), Stanford in G, When to the temple (Eccard).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch.

Mass In G (Schuberti, Canon A Mawson;

11.15 M. Te Deum (Sumsion in G), How
lovely are the messengers (Mendelssohn).

The Dean; 3 E. Stanford in A. Illuminare
Jerusalem (Judith Welf); 6.30 Evening, Senex
puerum portabat (Byrd), Rev G Daxier.

puerum portabat (byro), kev G Daxier. GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon Dr M Palmer: 9.45 S Euch, Mass for five voices (byrd), Hodie beata virgo (Byrd), The Sub-bean: 11.15 M, Third Service (Tomkins), When to the temple (Eccard), Rev J Claric 6.30 E. Gloucester Service (Howells), Vox dicentis (Naylor), Canon Dr M Palmer. (Naylor), Carron Dr M Paimer.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 S

Euch & Litungy of Candlemas, Stanford in B

flat, Senez puerum portabat (Byrd), Holy is
the true light (Harris), The Chancellor; 3.30 E,
Dyson in D, When to the temple (Eccard).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M: 7.45 L: 8,
12.30 HC: 9.30 S Euch, My eyes for beauty
plate (Howells), I the Lord of sea and sky
[Schutze), The Precentor, 11.15 M, Missa
Sanct Nitolal (Haydan), The Subdean; 3.45 E,
Stanford in G, When to the temple (Eccard),
NFWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M: 8 HC

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC. rice (Byrd), Sener, Duerum portabat (Byrd). The Provost; 6 Choral E. The Epiphany Carol Service.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Family Euch, Nunc dimittis in E flat (Bairstow); 6.30 Choral E. Collegium regale (Wood In F), Greater love (Ireland).

Greater love (Ireland).

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8, 9.15
HC: 10.30 S Euch & Candlemas Procession, 0
sacrum convivum (Messiaen). Canon, Teller: 3.30 Festal E & Candlemas Procession
to the Font, Collegium regale (Taveneri, Thou
must leave thy lowly dwelling (Berlioz); 5.30
Education Sunday.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC:
9.30 M. Ireland in P; 10.30 Euch, Schubert in
G. When to the temple (Eccard), The
Precentor; 3.30 E. Noble in A minor, Beloved
now are we the sons of God (Keeton).

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 now are we the sons of God (Keeton).

PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30
Parish C, Petersfield Mass (Mawby), O
salutaris hostla (Nicholson), Canon D Isaac;
11 S Euch, Messe Solenelle (Langlais), The
Call (Vaughan Williams), Canon C Bradley,
6.30 Persal E with Procession & incerse, Hali
gladdening light (Wood), Howells in G, Give
unto the Lord (Eigan, The Provos.

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch, Rev D Murfet:
9.30 Parish Euch, Harris in F, Lord now
lettest hou thy servant (Byrd), Canon K
Punshon: 11.30 M, Te Deum (Darke in F),
Jubilate (Stanford in F), Lateentur Coeli
(Byrd): 12.30 Euch, Canon H Garside: 4.30 E;
5.30 Choral Euch & Candlemas Procession,
Jackson in G, When to the temple (Eccard),
The Dean.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M.

Jackson in G, When to the temple (Eccaru), The Dean.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 M, Festival Te Deum (Whitlock), Senez puerum ontaba! (Byrd): 10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo (Haydn), Senez puerum portaba!, Rev Dr R Wallert 3.15 E, Stanford in C, When to the temple (Eccard), Hilton (Ameni: 6.30 Candlemas Euch, SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Very Rev D Walson; 10 Euch, Schubert (in G, When to the temple (Eccard), Canon J Osborne; 11.45 M, Sumsion (Te Deum in G), Jubilate (Walton), Nunc dimituis in G (Stanford), Rev A Philip: 3 E & Procession, Fifth Service (Tomkins), Senex puerum portabat (Byrd), When to the

temple (Eccard); 6 Talze, Canon J Osborne.
SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP;
10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley). When
to the temple (Eccard); Canon C Smith; 11.45
Text for the Day; 6.30 Festal E. Sermon &
Admission of Lay Assistants, Wesley in E,
Evening Hymn (Gardiner), The Bishop,
SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M & Litany; 8
HC; 10.30 Euch, Schubert in C. Let all monal
flesh keep silence (Balirstow), Very Rev R Wise3.15 Procession E. The Southwell Service,
When to the temple (Eccard), Admission of
Stewards.

when to the temple (Eccard), Admission of Stewards.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9 M; 10 Solemn S Euch, When to the temple (Eccard), Missa Sancti Nicola (Haydn). The Treasurer: 6 Solemn E, Jackson in G, Ave verum corpus (Byrd), The Chancellor:

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. Canon ! Knox; 9; 15 Parish C, Ave Maria (Peeters), Mr.J. Claric !! Solemn Euch, Missa Sancti Johannis de Deo (Haydri), All in the morning (arr Vaughan Williams), Mr.J. Claric 4 Solemn E, Dyson in D, When to the temple (Eccard), Canon R Giles.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Right Rev J Thompson: 11 30 M, Collegium Regale (Howells), We wait for thy Joving kindess (McKie): 3 Solemn E & Procession, The Second Service (Gibbons), When to the temple (Eccard), Rev P de Lucas.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC: 10 M, Britten II. C. When to the temple (Eccard), Rev P de Lucas.

WESTMINSTEM ABBET: 8 HC: 10 M. Britten In C. When to the temple [Eccard, Sis H Markey, 11.15 Euch, Mass in five parts (Byrd), Senex puerum portabat regebat (Byrd), Senex puerum portabat regebat (Byrd), everum corpus (Philips), Canon A Harvey; 3 E & Procession, Collegium Regale (Howelis, Senex puerum portabat adoravit [Byrd), A hymn to the Virgin [Britten], Canon A Harvey; 5.45 Recital; 6.30 Evening, Canon D Gray.

Gray.
WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch. Messe Solennelle (Vierne). Nunc Dimittis (Holst), When to the temple (Eccard) Rev P Morgan: 3-30 E & Installation, Jackson in G, Senex puerum portabat (Byrd), The Rishon

in G. Senex puerum portabat (Byrd). The Bishop.

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL: 9.30 Family Euch for Candlemas, Canon I MacKenzle: 1) Candlemas Euch. Missa Papae Marcelli (Palestrina). Hodie Beata Virgo (Byrd), Canon D Thomas; 4 E. Bullock: In D. When to the temple (Eccard); 6.30 Licensing of Diocesan, The Bishop of Dudley.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 2.45 HC; 9.30 M; 10 S Euch, Missa pro victoria (victoria), Rev Prof N Treasurer: 11:30 S Euch, Jackson in G; 4 EP. 6.30 Candlemas Processional Service.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: B HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Sancti Johannes de Deo (Haydi), Very Rev K Goulstone. The Dean; 3.30 Choral E. When to the temple (Eccard).

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid, Y. Deon; 9.30 Parisi Euch. The Succentor; 11:15 Choral M, Stanford in C. Purest and highest (Stanford). The Minor Canon; 6 Choral E. Harwood in A flat, When to the temple (Eccard), The Canon.

ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 11 Provost; 10 Orchestral S Euch with Procession, Missa Brevis in G (Mozart), Hymn to the Mother of God (Tavener), Rev V Herrick; 11:45 HC, Canon M Mingins; 3.30 Choral E. When to the temple (Coustins), The spacious (Irnament on high (Drayton).

ST GEORGES CATHEDRAL Southwarks 8, 10, 6 LM; 11:30 Solemn M, Blessing of Candlemess, Haydin in G. Ubi Caritas (Durufile), Fr1 Cornlins SEP & Benediction.

ST GILES CATHEDRAL Edinburge: 8, 10 Morning HC, Mass for five volces (Byrd) The Minister; 11:30 Morning Service. Lord 1 call

upon thee (Bairstow), The Minister, 6 St Gites at Six, Organ Duet; 8 Evening, Rev H Smith. ST MARTS CATHEDRAL Edinburgh: 8 Euch; 10.30 Euch, Mass in four parts (Byrd), Nunc Dimittis (Holst). The Provost; 3.30 Choral E, Wood in E (Jai No 2. ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Vaughan Williams in G minor, Nunc dimittis (Holst), When to the temple (Eccard), Archdeacon of London: 3.15 E, The Service on Plainsong Tones (Wills), Hodle beata Virgo (Byrd), Rev P Bickersteth; S Recital.

Recital.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL.

Ennismore Gardens, London, SW7: 10.30

Divine Litungy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Diocesan Bishop Met. Anthony. porpriory, Diocesan parapa met. Antrony.
All Salivits, Margaret Street, Wi. 8, 5.15 LM:
10.20 MP. 4.30 HM, Credomesse (Mozari,
Rev P Johnstone: 6 E&R. The Second Service
(Gibbons), Rev I Davies.
All Souls. Langham Place, Wi: 9
Communion; 11 Guest, Rev J Cook; 6.30 Preb

ALL SUULS, Langaam Place, WI: V
Communion; II Guest, Rev J Cook; 6.30 Preb
R Bewes,
THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, WI: 11
Missa brevis (Berkeley), Dextera Domini
(Schumann), Tristis est anima (Lassus),
CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC: 10
Children; 11 Parish Communion, Rev Dr P
EIVy; 6 E. Rev D Bean,
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH, Curzon St,
WI: 11 Sunday School. CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Cosent Garden, WC2: 11.15 Rev S Hood: 12.20 HC; 6.30 Rev S Hood. FARM STREET, W1: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 LM; ! I HM. HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 ASB HC, Rev S Downham; 11 Morning, Rev N Gumbet: 5.7 Informal, Mr G Coates.

CORRES.
THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, 12.30, 4.30, 7: 3.30 V & B, ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iversa Gdiss, W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

Giziran.
WESLEYS CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 11
Moroing & HC, Rey Dr L Griffiths.
WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL
(Methodist, SWI: 11 Rey Dr P Graves; 1.30
Youth Workshops/Worship; 6.30 HC, Rey B ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT.
ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT.
Smithfield, ECI: 9 HC: 11 Choral Euch.
Missa Beam Del Generiz (Lobo), The Rector:
6,30 E. Short Service (Globons), N.D. (Byrd),
Gaude gaude gaude Maria (Sheppard). The

Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: Il Choral M & Euch, Mozart in B flat, I was glad (Parry), Beatt quorum via [Stanford], Canon J Oates, 6.30 Choral E, Nunc Dimittis (Stanford in A), Thou O God art praised in Sion (Boyle), Rev J Panworth. Papworth.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Air Training Corps Annual Service. The Lord is my shepherd (Schubert), Rev J Coyne.

ST COLDMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND. Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev W Cairns; 6.30 Rev C Macleod.

ST ETHELDREDA'S. Ely Place: 9, 11 Mass. Mass in Honour of St Joseph (Peeters), Senex Puerum (Byrd), Nunc Dimitist (Wood).

ST GEORGE'S. Hanover Square. W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Ench. 11 Missa Brevis (Viadana), The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Garfickhythe, EC4: 10.30 5' Euch (1662), Robin Sherlock. ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch; Missa Bel Amfilirit (Lassus), When to the temple (Eccard), Rev B Wilson: 6

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch. Rev N Holtam: 5.45 EP. KEY N HORIAM: 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, Straiford E1S: 11 Family Communion, Sonara No 8 Scherzoso (Rheinberger), Rev D Richards; 6.30 EP & Praise, Rev D Richards.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 10,30 S Euch, When to the temple (Eccard), Rev M Colmer. 12.15 HC: 6,30 E, Nunc Dimittis (Holst), Rev M Fuller.

ST MARGARETS, Westminster, SWI: 11 S Euch, Rev R Holloway.

ST MARTIN-IN-HHE-FIREDS, WC2: 8 HC: 9.45 Buch, Rev C Herbert: 11.30 Visitors to London, Rev B Schunemann: 12.30 HC. Rev C Herbert; 2.45 Chinese, Rev G Lee: 6.30 Evening Rev B Cave.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 8,12.30 HC: 9.30 Parish Euch, Rev F Celli: 11.15 Choral M, Vicar; 6.30 E, Rev M Fuller. ST MARGARETS, Westminster, SWI: II S Euch, Rev R Holloway.

Funer. ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Parish Euch, Sumsion in F. Greater love hath no man (ireland), Rev I ovenden; 6 Choral E. Sumsion in G. Senez puerum portabat (Byrd).

ST MARYLEBONE. Marylebone Road, W1: 8
HC; 11 Choral Euch, Nelson Mass (Haydn).
Hodle beata Virgo (Byrd). Rev R McLaren;
6:30 Ministry of Healing, Rev P Flowers.

ST MICHAELS, Combill. EC3: 11 Choral
Service, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Ave verum
corpus (Byrd).

ST PARRS, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11
Missa pondficallis (Perosi), When Mary to the
temple (Eccard). O sacrum convivium
(Messiaen), Rev C Courtauld.

ST STEPHEN'S, Glouceter Road, SW7: 91 M.

Messiaeni, Ry C Cournaulo. 81 STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 9 LM; 11 HM, Missa Gloria in Excelsis Deo Grobert, Nunc Dimittis in F(Dyson), Cantate Domino (Prioni), Laudate Dominum (Hassier), Fr R Bushau. DOMING (PHON), LUIDZE DOMINUM (HASSIEN), Fr R BUSHAU.
CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA. HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC. Rev P Abram.
11 M & Sermon. Jubiliate (Britten in C). Nunc Dimittis (Holst), Rev P Abram.
CHAPEL ROYAL SL James's Patace: 8.30 HC, 11.15 S Euch. Stanford in C, Canon G Jones.
CHAPEL ROYAL Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC (1662); 11 Choral Each. Collegium Regale (Dark), When to the temple (Eccard).
3.30 Short Service (Ayleward), Senez puerum portabat. (Byrd).
GROSVENOR CHAPEL South Audley Street, W1: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis in F [Mogart], When to the temple (Eccard). Rev S Hobbs.
QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2:

Hobbs.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2:
Presentation of Christ in the Temple: 11 S
Euch, Rev W Chivers.

GRAY'S INN CHAPEL & South Sq. WC1R:
8.30 HC; 11,15 Divine Service.

THE TEMPLE CHURCH. Pleet Street: 8.30
HC; 11,15 MP, Te Deum Laudarnus (Gray in
B), Jubilate Deo (Ireland in C), Rev J
Halliburton. Halliburon.

GUARDS CHAPEL Wellington Barracks,
SWI: 11 Choral HC, Missa Brevis in C
(Mozard, Be still my soul (Whitlock), Band of
the Weish Guards, Rev P Bosher.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL,
Greenwich, SEID: 11 S Euch (BCF), Darke in
F. When to the Temple (Eccard), Rev C

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LICTAL	ATT: OI	71 +0
and forg has caus must for	it with one a lving, if any e for complai give as the La L Colossians	of you int; you and for-
BIRTH	s	
at The Hospital Claire (1	N - On Janua Princess , Southamp 60 McDormo titan, Guy rr.	Anne ton, to tt) and
james, a sister Alexando	1997, to Jan daughter, F for Phoebe L	and sale
1997 at Hospital a benuti Teresa, s	On 30th j Queen Cha to Rima and ful daughter, sister for B	riotta's Frank Chloe Jannah
at The P lona (né a beauti Maria Al		dtal, to ! Mark, Lydia
at The P Stephat beautiful Henry.	l - On Januar ortland Hosp ile and Ma I baby boy, V	itzi, to ark, o Filliam
27th 199 Findley) Son, Ang	LAN - On J. 7, to Caroliz and Rory, a : us Patrick	second
Jo (née wife of N Anastasi	On January 2 Marcandon Icholas, a da a Sophie.	ialos), tighter,
beautiful and Davi	- Beth Ek dateghter to , half-sister Roger, hors	Karen to Bd.

BIRTHS SMITH - On January 25th in Johannesburg to Tessa (née Pentney) and Miles, a son, Maxim Miles Lind, a brother for Alexander and Digby. STERM - On January 24th 1997, in France, to Serma (née Murdoch) and Joël, a daughter, Charlotte Anne WESTON - On January 31st 1997, to Tracey and Nicholas, of Sydney, a daughter, Jessica Louise, a WRIGHT - On Tuesday 21st January 1997, to Ann (née Pitzgerald) and Peter, a daughter, Elinor Louise.

GOLDEN

Jess and Roger, horn 29th January, a virtuose performance by Bedford's warvellous midwives. **DEATHS** RAMSAY - On Sunday 26th January, at RUH, Bath, to Bestriz (see Gonzalez Pacho) and Michael, a son, William Bertram. SMHA - On 10th January 1997 at King's College Hospital, to Angela and Joydeep, a beautiful daughter, Natasha

BRANCH - Frances Margeret, on Thursday, January 30th 1997, peacefully at home, aged 34. Much leved and anised by her many friends. Funezal Service at Goldens Graen Crematorium on Friday, February 7th, at 11.30 am. No flowers. Donations to Care for the Wild, I Ashfolds, Horsham Road, Rusper, West Sussex, EH12 4QX. ANNIVERSARIES WHITE-THOMPSON - On 1st February 1947, at the Chapel of the Duke Of Yndr's Royal Military School, Dover, Kent, Captain Dennis Birch White (Koyal Artillery) to Cynthia Thompson. Present address; 228, Goldington Road, Redford, MK40 25B.

CARLESIE - Andrey peacefully on 29th January. Will be sadly inheed by daughters Tamain, Julia, Daloni and Alison, and granddaughters Rose and Georgia. Requiem Mars at All Saints, East Sheen Avenue, 5W14, Thursday 6th February. No Plowers. Donations to Princess Alice Hospics c/o P.W. Paine, 31 Church Street, Twichtenham TW1 3NE. COADY - On 28th January after a sewete lifness home with great courage, Matthew Turner, journalist, mach loved husband of Par and dear bather of Frances and Simon. Private cremation but Matthew's friends are invited to meet at the Methodist United Reformed Church, Hungste, Setfiolk on Friday 7th March at 11.30 am to remember him. ARMOLD - Rozanne Beatrice, died peacefully in hospital on January 11th 1997. Funeral was held on 27th January 1997. Any doestions for a charity to be decided to Victory & Co. Solicitors, 111

de PARAVICINI - On 28th
January 1997, John Dodeon
aged 92 pessed pessedully
away, father of Tim and
Fraucis, graudiather of
Avalon and Newin Funeral,
5t Mary's, Abbotts Ann,
Andower on Fiday February
7th at 2 pm. RADFIELD - John Morabend died peacefully in Oban Hospital on Thursday January 30th aged 73 Funeral St Columbas Funeral St Columbas Church, Gruline, Isle ol Mull, 11.30 am Tuesday February 4th. Memorial Service at Walhampton School, Lymington to be announced later. Family flowers only. Donations to St Columbas Church. FRENCH - On 29th January 1997, John Rayment Michael Ifrench, MC (late 4/6 Raymtana Billes and Royal Ulster Rifles) beloved husband of Georgia, dear father of Selly, James and Fatrick, and grandfather of Llam, Erica, Sarah, Daniel and Mary Eose.

FITZGERALD - Edward Nefi
M.C. (Eamon) on 30th
January, husband of the late
Julie, father of Desmond and
Patrick. Funeral Service
Pattesy vale Crematochum on
Tuesday 4th February at
1.45 pm. Ne flowers but
donations plause to Age
Concern, Kensington and
Cheisea Branch, Young
Street, Landon WS, in his
mezzory.

Highron - Cecil, Barrister and Civil Servant, died peacefully at St Joseph's Nursing Home, Littlehampton, on 25th January 1997, aged 90. MUNITER - On 28th January, Jock (John Arnott) aged 90. Beloved father of David, Pixelin, Pixel and Lauid. Memorial February 10th at 3.30 pm at 5t Mathias, Church Road, Richmond, Jamily Flowers only. Donations to Friends of the Elderly, 42 Ebury Street, SW1. HURFORD - James David
Kinahan Hurford MBE
suddenly on 29th January
1997 aged 51 in hospital
after a brave Eight against
cancer. Dearly loved
husband of Kate, loving son
of Joy and the late David
Eurford. Greatly loved
brother of Patricia and
Caroline (Laha), Much loved
brother-in-law and uncle.
Greatly missed by all his
family and friends, Funeral
Service 2 pm Wednesday 5th
February at 5t Andrew's
Church, Broughton,
Extesting, followed by budal
at Broughton Cemetery,
Enquiries about flowers or
donations to Jack Warwick
Funenal Service, 2A Walks
Road, Lettering, NN15 6NI,
(01536) 85638.

LAME - John Marwood Powlart, Obsector of CGE Advertising, died suddenly Menday 27th Jamaica, West Indies, Fameral in Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies, Fameral in Kingston Thursday 4th Pahroarty 3.30pm Temple of Light, Somely missed by friends and collesgoes, UK Remodal to LISSETT - On 30th January peacefully after a long illness Marjory, mother of Emma and Ease, wislow of John reunited. Family flowers only please, Donations if desired to Guillain Barre Syndroms Support Geoup together with any enquiries to W. Bamford & Son Funeral Directors, 7 Shakespeare Street, Nottingham, NG1 4FE, tel: (0115) 9418429.

MacKHIGHT - Eev. Angus T. On January 30th, 1997, The Rev. Angus T. MacKnight LVO, MRE, MR, ChR, MRCGP., husband of Alice Laing, father of Jock and Jane, grandfather of Eate, Charile and Calum. Late of Gordomstoun and Rrusseh. Service in St Boawells Caunch on Tossaky February 4th at 12.45 pm followed by cremation at Mortonhall Crematorium at 2.45 pm. Family flowers only, Donations if desired to Parkinsons Disease Society, 22 Upper Woburn Place, London, WCIH ORA.

SATHESON - Donald Intheson, who died suddenly at home, took place on jamuary 20th in Brova, Sutherland. Seloved kushand of the law Many Commanding and much MORCOM - On 29th jamuary 1997, John Brian Morcom. Punetal Service at Harwood. Park Crematorium, Watton Road, Stevenage, on Teenday 11th February n 3.30 pm. Enquiries to W. Austia & Sons (Savenage) Ltd., tel: (01438) 316622.

LLOYD - Lady Ruth, beloved wife of the late Lord Lloyd of Hampstead and devoted mother and grandmother to Naomi and Corinne and grandchildren Rate and Ben, passed away after a short illness on 29th January, Cremation to take place on Monday 3rd February at the West Chapel, Golders Green Crematorium at 2 pm.

STUART - David, late of Broome Court, Lew Gardens, Survey, Funeral Service at Mortlake Crematorium at 10.30 am on Tuesday 4th February, WER - Suddenly as the result of an accident, while working abroad, on 20th January 1997, Graham Weir aged 26 years, A deer son of Marion and the late James

NEWBURY - Roy D.A.
peacefully on 30th January
1997 at the Royal United
Hospital, Bath, aged 82.
Dearly loved bushand of
Richard, John and Jenny and
fond gmnditather of Viola,
Edward, Tancred, Arthur,
Cressida and Rilly, Funeral
Service at Haycombe
Crematorium, Bath, at
1230pm on 5th February,
Family flowers only.
Donations if desired to the
ENILB clo Hooper & Son, 13
St James Parade, Bath.
SALLITT - Enine 31st january SALITY - Eisine 31st Januar 1997 peacefully at Th Royal Sussex Count Hospital, Brighton Muc loved mother of Timothy an Jilly. Private funeral. MIN- Friend Parents, 1997. Tatiana Liakoff 1997. Tatiana Liakoff Shevioff. Wife of David Shevioff. Sadly missed by family and friends. Donations in her memory may be made to The R.S.P.C.A. Causeway, Horsham, West Smeez RH12

STEWHOUSE Mario Hamilton (Party) peacefully nt Brooklands Nursing Home, Forest Row, on 30th January 1997. Funeral on Wednesday 5th february at St Andrew's Church, Charderock, Chard, Somersed at 230 pm.

THANKSGIVING BIRTHDAYS BURKE - Thanksgiving Services for the life of Mrs. Elizabeth Burke will take place at 5t Mary's Church, Navan on Saturday 22nd March 1997 at 12 noon and at 5t Mary's Church, Kings Waiden, Hertfordshire on Monday April 7th 1997 at 12 20008. happy birthday for someon special __ amounce it is th Times! Call 0171 481 1982 IN MEMORIAM -PRIVATE GOODA - Samh Jane Chaldner Gooda (née Reed). Fondly remembered on this 1st anniversary and always by her loving family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS POURTH WAY SCHOOL in the living restition of Guerfield and Ouspeemky now accepting students 0181 347 5353.

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PORTHCOMING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES Please send Court Page announcements by postifaction Mrs J. Nesman, Court & Social Advertising, The Times, PO Box 495, Virginia Street, London El 9XS. Tel: 0171 782 7347. Fax 0171 782 7725 Please include in all correspondences gnature of cither one of the parties concerned or a part a daytime and bonce telephone number and address.

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JEREMY MAAS

Jeremy Maas, art dealer, died of arterioscicrosis on January 23 aged 68. He was born on August 31,

n deciding to become a dealer in Victorian paintings, Jeremy Maas could hardly have found a more effective way of waging his personal campaign to bring Victorian painting, a neglected field of British art, back into favour. His career gave him the freedom of movement to write and mount exhibitions and his gallery became a meeting place and forum for discussion for those with memories stretching back to the 1960s and for newer converts to Victorian art. If, when Maas started out, Victorian painting was generally considered to be of negligible interest, by the end of his career it was re-established in public esteem and at the time of his death Maas was working on a long-held ambition: an exhibition of Victorian Fairy Paintings which opens at the Royal Academy later this year.

Born in Malaya to a Dutch diplomat father and an American mother. Jeremy Stephen Maas spent his youth up to the age of ten in Alpine resorts and fashionable European spas. He was brought to England to be sent to school at Sherborne before going on to Pembroke College, Oxford, to read English. While in the Bodieian he came across William Gaunt's Aesthetic Adventure which, he said, first kindled his interest in Victori-

In December 1960, having left Bonhams Auctioneers where he had started up the prints and drawings department, he opened the Maas Gallery in Clifford Street, off Bond Street. He ran it with his long-time colleague and friend Henry Ford. They shared a bawdy sense of humour of the seasine nostcard variety and this became part of the gal-

lery's flavour. Within a year of opening, Maas was selling Victorian paintings to such major museums as the Ashmolean, the British Museum, the Tate Gallery, Manchester City Art Gallery and the Pierpont Mor-

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Many first came to the gallery to buy Norwich School watercolours - the basic stock that Maas had bought with his £2,000 initial capital - but later returned for Victorian works.

Early purchases by the American collector Paul Mel-lon of English watercolours and paintings by Gainsborough. Constable and Turner. helped to fund Maas's initial dealing in Pre-Raphaelite. paintings. His 1961 exhibition of Pre-Raphaelite work was the first commercial exhibition of such paintings in modern times. For his first ten years of dealing Maas was one of a tiny number specialising in this field, and in Victorian art in general, but his success encouraged other dealers and salerooms to follow.

Maas had firm convictions about quality. He knew in-stinctively when a paining was "right", a skill, he said, which he learnt from looking at pictures with his mother when young. One of his triumphs was to buy Flaming June by Lord Leighton from another dealer in 1963 for £1,000. Unable to persuade an English gallery to acquire it, he sold it to the Puerto Rican collector Luis Ferré for £2,000. It still hangs in the museum in Ponce and, recognised as one of the great icons of Victorian painting, is now worth several million pounds.

Among other collectors to whom Maas sold over the years were Vincent Price, Osbert Lancaster, Barry Humphries, Hugh Casson, L. S. Lowry and Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Maas also represented living artists in his gallery, giving John Ward his first London exhibition. Ward, who became a friend, found Maas could be "brusquely unorthodox". He was, he said. "a dealer who believed in the quality of the picture and wouldn't attempt to sell anything if the person didn't understand and appreciate it".

Very tall (6ft 4m) and shambolically elegant, Maas had great presence. He could be forbidding to those he suspected of superficiality, but to those who proved themselves serious and who came to him for advice he was gan Library in New York. unstinting in his help. Late in



life he admitted to friends that he had always been shy and found large social gatherings a trial. He was also colour-blind though with a red/green

deficiency only. He published his first book. Victorian Painters, in 1969. As the first illustrated survey of that period in art history it was highly influential, and is still highly regarded. His enthusiasm was for personalities as much as paintings and further

research into the Victorian artists and his growing collection of their photographic cartes de visite (published as The Victorian Art World in

Photographs in 1984) provided an inexhaustible source of gossip about their most intimate lives. He took great pleasure in his friendships with some of the grandchildren of the Pre-Raphaelites. Diana Holman Hunt and Virginia Surtees among them.

Other books were Gamban, Prince of the Victorian Art World (1975) and Holman Hunt and The Light of the World (1984).

Jeremy Maas married Antonia Armstrong Willis, equestrian and artist, in 1956. She survives him, together with their daughter and two sons. His eldest son, Rupert. who has worked with him in the gallery since 1984, is his successor in the business.

JOHN PATTERSON

John Patterson, founder of Dateline International, died of a heart attack on January 29 aged 51. He was born on May 17. 1945.

IT WAS in a Sixties climate. increasingly tolerant of casual sex and responsive to the technological advances of a computer age, that John Patterson founded Dateline. probably the largest, longest established and most successful computer dating service in the world. An assute entrepreneur, he was one of the first to realise that love was a commodify from which a comfortable profit could be made.

Every year, hundreds of single men and women would approach his company. For a fixed fee they could have a comprehensive profile of themselves and their ideal mate fed into a computer. There, exposed to the statistics and desires of thousands of other hopefuls, they waited to be matched up.

Estimates suggest that Dateline introduces some 40,000 prospective lovers a year. Some 2,000 of these go on to get married, though accurate figures are difficult to estimate. They are just the ones we hear about," Patterson explained. "There are thousands who do not bother to tell us. There is still a stigma attached to using a dating

agency."
But in the 30 years in which he ran the company, Patterson did his best to overcome this stigma as well as the criticisms that he simply made capital out of exploiting loneliness. Though he did not meet his own wife through the agency. he believed, he said, wholeheartedly in computer dating. John Patterson was born into a respectable middle-class

family, the son of a banker in Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire. His father expected his son to go on, after private education, to pursue a conventional profession. But when John graduated from the University of London in 1966 with a third-class degree in mechanical engineering, he had little idea of what he wanted to do next.

It was a visit to Harvard University which made up his mind. He noticed that a computer was being used, with notable success, to match part-

Richard Berry, rhythm

and blues singer and

songwriter, died in Los

Angeles on January 23

aged 61. He was born in

Extension, Louisiana, on

April 11. 1935.

IT IS unlikely that the 21-year-old Richard Berry gave much thought to the self-composed.

Jamaican-flavoured song

Louie Louie he recorded as the

B-side to a version of You Are

My Sunshine in Hollywood in

January 1957. Yet the song

went on to become a rock

anthem and one of the most

covered songs of the whole

Although Louie Louie was

only to earn Berry and his

backing group a moderate

reputation on America's Pacif-

ic coast, in 1960 a white singer,

Rockin' Robin Roberts, discov-

ered the disc in a bargain bin

and cut it the following year

giving it a more rock n'roll

became a massive national

rock era.



ners up at the freshman's ball. As a young man Patterson was himself shy of girls, reluctant to introduce himself for fear of being misconstrued and, like many others, finding urban life solitary and insular. He returned to Britain determined to set up a small agency of his own, to provide a fun and light-hearted opportunity for strangers to meet.

Dateline was launched that same year on £50 of borrowed capital. Leaflets were printed and distributed around various educational establish-ments. Patterson began by charging £1 a time. Soon distribution was spreading to Piccadilly and Oxford Circus and a small office was established in Kensington's Abingdon Road. By the early 1970s the first full display advertisements for a dating agency were appearing in newspapers, magazines and hoardings. People gradually came to believe that the couples who beamed so contentedly in the pictures were for real. If Patterson had once seen his company merely as a shortterm project — something to occupy himself for six months while he considered what else to do - he now found himself heading a burgeoning and highly profitable business. A monthly magazine, Sin-

gles, was distributed all over Britain and a travel company. Singles Holidays, was launched in 1975. It was to operate for more than ten years. There

was also a singles bar Buckingham Palace Road. In 1978 Patterson branched out even more ambitiously, launching Dateline in France. Germany and Italy. But he could not make the expansion pay and in 1982 he withdrew offices from these

countries.

But the dating data-bank remained, his most successful venture, outlasting a plethora of other such agencies which sprang up. In 1992 it moved its headquarters to Bletchingdon Park, an Oxfordshire country house, and there it still thrives. On the proceeds of his business success Patterson bought a plane. He had taken to flying in 1972 and progressed rapidly from singleengined to twin-engined aircraft. He loved to jaunt around the world, and made two adventurous trips, also, to Antarctica with his friend, the explorer Giles Kershaw.

Patterson's other passion was wine. He purchased the Hambledon Vineyard in Hampshire and was one of the first to try to promote English wines. A warm, genial character, with a quick wit and distinctive turn of phrase, he liked nothing more after a day in the office than to invite his staff to his wine bar for a

Patterson is survived by a son and two daughters from his marriage to Valerie and by two sons from a second long standing relationship.

JOSE IGNACIO DOMECQ

vation was always sardon-

ically made, it never failed to

reveal a subtle flavour of

Yet his personal loss - and,

perhaps the navy's too - was

José Ignacio Domeco. Spanish winemaker, died on January 15 aged 82. He was born in Jerez de la Frontera on July 31.

FETED throughout the world of wine as La nariz, or "The Nose". José Ignacio Domecq would, by his own admission, rather have been a dashing naval officer in the modern Spanish Armada than the sherry-maker of the century. But the proclamation of the Second Spanish Republic in 1931 led not only to the flight from his realm of King Alfonso XIII, but resulted also in the immediate closure of all Spain's military academies. The 17-year-old Domecq, a naval cadet obsessed with the sea, saw his hoped-for career snatched rudely from him. The rest of his education, to his great dismay, had to be pursued instead at an engineering

need holidays, so do their families.

Before planning your own holidays this year,

please spare more than a thought for those

children who without your help will never get

away at all.

Donations orgently needed by

The British Kidney Patient Association,

Bordon, Hants, GU35 91Z.



Years later, even in his seventies, he would remark that he might well have made it to admiral's rank had Spain's fortunes taken a different turn. Although this obser-

family of Andalusia, José Ignacio Domeque y González was the son of Manuel Domecq y Núñez de Villavicencio. He was quickly put in charge of production at the family bodega, making and blending the finest sherries, and serving at the same time as roving ambassador for the family's wines.

an immeasurable gain for

drinkers around the world.

Born into the leading sherry

Domecq married into a sherry family, too — the Bohadillas, A hearty man, he was a superb polo player, boasting a handicap of five until well into his sixties. In this hobby, as with his winemaking, he had certain inherited advantages: the Domecq family polo ground, called La Ina, was perhaps the finest in Europe, outside Britain. Manly sport on horseback, however, took its toll and he was seldom without a broken bone somewhere.

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& PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

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Apart from polo, Domecq was a man of simple tastes. He spurned the family's majestic villa in the centre of Jerez de la Frontera, his home town, for a smaller apartment he shared with his wife. A bright red motorcycle - purchased, apparently, from one of his chauffeurs - was his preferred mode of transport, and local Jerezanos grew accustomed to the sight of him whizzing through town on his way to work every morning. Paco, an even-tempered Jack Russell, was his constant comnanion, travelling in a box on

If there was one other thing that Domecq regretted, apart from his aborted naval career, it was the fact that sherry has always remained an underpriced drink. "There are few wines more complex than sherry," he would often remark, in between puffs of a cigarette, "yet even in Spain a bottle of average rioja costs

the back seat especially made

But his tireless efforts to promote sherry, particularly on its "home ground" in England, did not go unrecognised. In 1991, Decanter magazine made him its Man of the Year. A year earlier, the municipal council of Jerez de la Frontera had declared him to be the town's Hijo Predilecto, or "favourite son". Movingly, the Spanish Navy. in 1984, awarded him an honorary Cruz del Mérito.

He is survived by his wife

Angela Fernández de Bobadi-

lla, and his 12 children.

treatment. Its popularity spread to America's North-West. By 1963 two rival bands more than the finest fino." in Portland, Oregon, featured the song in their live sets and, recorded by the Kingsmen, it hit. Berry's original version of the song was issued on an EP in Britain, disappeared without trace, and now sells for £125 a copy.

Rumours that the song's lyrics were obscene began to circulate and led to its ban in one state and an investigation by the FBI. They played the record at 33, 45 and 78 rpm, to try to decipher what was being sung. Berry was also called in

and questioned about his lyrics. The FBI's conclusion was that the song was "unintelligi-

ble at any speed".

By now the song had taken on a life of its own with more than a 1,000 versions being recorded to date, by such well known artists as Blondie, Barry White, the Turtles and the Beach Boys. Only Yesterday by the Beatles has had more cover versions. In 1985, there was even a bid to get the Washington State legislature to adopt it as the official state

Unfortunately, Berry had signed over his songs, including Louie Louie, years before for \$650. "I was flattered when it became a hit." Berry told an interviewer, "but then I got bitter about it. Here was I the writer, but all those millions of dollars went into someone else's pocket."

Richard Berry, born near New Orleans, had moved to

RICHARD BERRY Los Angeles to live with an aunt while still an infant. While a student at Jefferson High School in the early 1950s he formed a vocal group with fellow students and went on to find fame in the burgeoning West Coast rhythm and blues scene with a group called the Flairs, as well as supplying the menacing narration for Riot in Cell Block No 9, a big hit

for the Robins in 1955. Signed for the Los Angelesbased Modern label, Berry, who could sing every group part from tenor to bass, recorded extensively as a solo singer and with a female backing group called the Dreamers. Many of these tracks were reissued to great acclaim on an album entitled Get Out of the Car, released

in Britain in 1992. After his tenure at Flip records and the sale of his copyrights, Berry went from one small label to another without finding the success he deserved. However, when the copyright of Louie Louie came up for renewal in 1986, Berry was able to recover 75 per cent of the songwriting royalties and 50 per cent of the publishing royalties, guaranteeing him a sizeable annual income. He came over to Britain last year when a radio interview with Paul Jones on Jazz FM showed that any bitterness there might have been had

long since gone. Berry is survived by his former wife, Dorothy, a recording artist in her own right, and two daughters and two sons.

PERSONAL COLUMN

	The second secon			
FOR SALE	FLATSHARE	ANNOUNCEMENTS	LEGAL NOTICES	PUBLIC NOTICES
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watinble write by Way, Ocean Village, whose characters

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

FURTHER CAPTURES OF BOERS. The following telegram from Lord

THE WAR

Kitchener has been received at the War Office:-Pretoria, Jan. 30, 8 15 p.m. French reports 26 Boers taken prisoners, one killed, to north-east of Cape Colony,

belonging to Fouché's commando, which is now completely scattered. Colonel Du Moulin, at Abraham's Kraal, on Rier River, was attacked 1 a.m., 28th January, by Nieuwhoudt's commando. After severe fighting Boers were repulsed with loss. but I regret to report the death of Du Moulin.

a promising young commander, who has done excellent service throughout the Major Driscoll on 27th captured small Boer laager with 17 prisoners, including Field Corners Venter and Grobelaur, near Makaw's Drift: latter has died of wounds. Driscoll is now moving to co-operate against Boers who

anacked Du Moulin's camp. The above appeared in our Second Edition

ON THIS DAY

February 1, 1902 经企业企业

A closing stage in the Boer War which ended with the Peace of Vereeniging on May 3). British casualties were 5,774

killed and 16,000 deaths from disease.

THE TRANSVAAL.

Standerton, Jan. 20. The success of General Bruce Hamilton's operations last month is likely to be equalled this month. He has up to the present during January made overn 330 captures in addition killed, wounded, and surrenders. Among his captures are many important men, including most of the officers of the Staats Artillerie. The Boers east of the line under Botha's control are very uneasy in consequence of the succession of night marches

Horse sickness, which was previously unknown in this district, is prevalent here. It is also reported to have appeared among the

Everything is very quiet in the south and west of the Transvaal. Steenkamp is in the Rustenburg district with his commando, but manifests little disposition to show himself. A prisoner who was recently taken states that norse sickness is seriously affecting the mobility of the Boers, and coolirms the statement of another Boer, who was taken some weeks ago, that ammunition is scarce. The Magaliesberg range is free of the enemy. CAPE COLONY.

Graaf Reinet, Jan. 28. Wessel's commando, after harbouring in the Richmond and Murraysburg district, failed to cross the line west of Murraysburg, and was forced on the 24th inst. to leave its hounts by a British column, and chased to Bethesda Road station. After some looting the Boers fled eastward to Wagenpame where they langered on the 25th, having covered upwards of 50 miles. On Friday night the District Mounted Rifles came in contact with the enemy at Bethesda, and continued the pursuit. The rebel Smit, who escaped from the mounted troops a few weeks ago, led the Boers into the Petersburg mountains, where Lotter was run to earth.

ه كذا من الاصل

صكذا من رلامل

TV merger creates 30 new channels

Three of Britain's biggest commercial television companies yesterday joined forces to launch a £300 million bid to run digital television and bring up to 30 extra channels within 18 months. The new technology will bring multi-channel television to the three quarters of British households which do not already subscribe to cable or satellite television

Major wants to share prosperity

■ John Major announced proposals to give people a bigger stake in Britain's prosperity through an expansion of share ownership and personal pensions. He also used a press conference to reveal "Sharematch", a scheme to encourage businesses to offer free shares to more of their staff....... Page 1

Nazi claim

magazine claimed ...

ANC accused

Yanomami wife ...

Cure for Yeltsin

Anthony Lake, nominated by the

President as head of the Central

Intelligence Agency, faces objec-

tions from senators Page 16

ANC operatives had a hand in the

1993 assassination of Chris Hani.

a popular party leader, it was

Brazilian anthropologists con-

demned an American scientist's

jungle expedition to search for his

A Moscow spiritual healer who

treated Leonid Brezhnev thinks

that she can help Boris Yeltsin to

__... Page 18

Search condemned

Gucci murder charge

The former wife of Maurizio Gucci, the last family member to hold shares in the fashion company, was charged with ordering

Meteoric Messenger

Melinda Messenger. 22, has become an overnight modelling sensation after appearing in The Sun and the Daily Star Page 3

Shark on danger list Rare species including the basking

shark, the stag beetle and the sandy stilt puffball are to receive greater protection.... Better reading

Reading standards of inner-city children have been improved by giving them executive-style computer notebooks...Page II

Bishop's dream

The Bishop of Sheffield has written a "dream Queen's Speech" quoting Karl Marx. A Tory MP

Ben Jonson as a copywriter

A lost playlet by Ben Jonson which was commissioned to celebrate and advertise the opening of a shopping arcade in the Strand in 1609 has been found in the Public Record Office. The site of the arcade, the Harvey Nichols of its day, is now occupied by several shops, including a branch of Pizza Hut... Pages 5, 23

said it was outrageous..... Page 14 make a full recovery Page 19

Michel Junot, an aide of President Chirac's who served under the Vichy regime sent Jews to the Nazi gas chambers in 1942, a FrenchPage 15 CIA man in trouble

NATUIRIE NOTIES





ARIS

Old Vic epic: Timothy and

Samuel West take the cen-

tral roles of Falstaff and

Hal in Henry IV Parts !

Many happy returns: Har-

old Pinter's first play, The

Birthday Party, in a faith-

fully sinister Manchester

Silent movies: I support

multiplexes for one good

reason: the alternative

trend towards high-tech

"home entertainment" is

even more depressing -

Richard Morrison on our

... Page 20

. Page 20

.... Page 21

and 2....

revival

cinemas...

Gardiner's Hints

OPINION

Russians get used to the idea of managing without a "guiding star" their democracy will truly come of age Page 23 Green and swampy: Professional protesters trespass on the rights of local people to decide how green should be their valleysPage 23

Playwrights as copywriters: Advertising copy is the same medium as used by Shakespeare and Ben Jonson, Pinter and Beckett......Page 23

LETTERS Gibraltar, Toyota Page 23

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: "My problem," wrote the fisherman who had used his wife's pubic hair, "is not so much that I have run out of raw materials but what to call this superb new fly." Suggestions included Lunar Rise. Frizzie Lizzy. Throat Tickler and Old Wives' TailPage 22

OBITUARIES Jeremy Maas, art dealer: John Patterson, founder of

the Dateline agency; José Ignacio Domecq, sherry pro-

BUSINESS

Abbey National: Scottish Amicable rejected a bid from Abbey National worth up to £1.4 billionPage 27 Books: Reed Elsevier sold

some of publishing's best-

known names Page 27 Economy: Kenneth Clarke indicated that he remains opposed to Bank demands to raise base rates......Page 27 Markets: The FT-SE 100 index closed 47.4 points up at 4275.8. Sterling's tradeweighted index fell from 95.2

to 94.4 — from \$1.6145 to

\$1.6027 and from DM2.6463

to DM2.6233 Page 30

SPORT

Rugby union: England must

produce evidence of improvement in the Calcutta Cup match against Scotland at Twickenham Page 52 Cricket: England, 107 all out against New Zealand A, conceded a first-innings lead of 74 runs... .. Page 52 Football: The way Andrei Kanchelskis slipped away to Italy catches the transience of Page 46

CAR 97

In-car entertainment; the last Lagonda; Labour Party's traf-

SECTIONS

.....Page 8 Big bang: Manchester after the bomb Page 16 Food: look East ... Page 43

Weekend

Roaring Forties: Women's mid-life crisis..... Pages 1,2



Property: Storage: retirement homes Pages 7-9 Home life: A curfew for teenagers Page 13

Get karting: quick kids PLUS win a drive in the 1015 Grand Prix Trip to the top: The Bard

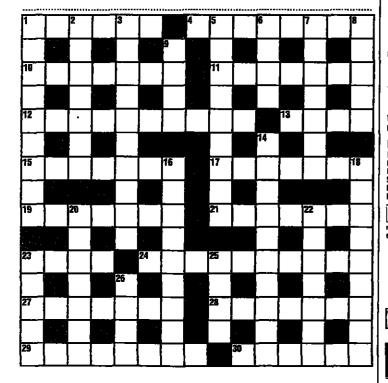


PeoplePage	1
FoodPage	•
BooksPages 7-	12
What's on Pages 13-2	2
TV & radio Pages 23-	

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,392

A E20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times. Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486. Virginia Street, London El 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



ACROSS I Duck head behind middle of

- 4 Preserve, excellent preserve, from Kingston, possibly (8).

 10 Inspire soldiers to swim around
- 11 Sovereign occupying 19 houses in a row (7).
- 12 Gung-ho gunners encircle African republic (6,2.2). 13 Delay a guy (4). 15 Supplements showing how to make gag crazy? (7).
- 17 Fruit and lots of cereal put in a
- 19 Dash! Coupons rendered invalid 21 Fish got cut (7). 23 Communist reported in German capital (4).

 24 Return flight is secret (10).
- 27 Possible diet of Italian opera violinist needs (7).
- 28 Jack is among hard-liners back-29 Monsieur leaves museum a leg-
- 30 A very handsome youth and so I flourished (6).

Solution to Puzzle No 20.386

I Don't allow artists in German town to show up (9). 2 Minded about the French being

exonerated (7).

5 Does it require deciphering from a GP author? (9). 6 Half of what Robin Hood was involved in appears crooked (4). 7 Coach – it crashes, out of control

8 In legend, by ignoring the odds, become poor (5). 9 Hide tear (4).

14 One way to get purchase – standing on spade, perhaps (6.4).
 16 Strengthening girl, a swimmer

Catches fish to support some, but not others (4,5). 20 In old city, pruned shrub back towards source (7). 22 There's nothing to restrict the

23 Slough has army hospital right in the middle (5). 25 Knight is buried inside ancient tomb (4).

26 Vessel's left harbour (4). Solution to Puzzle No 29,391

SINDORE ENTIRE HALLOW SHEET TO SENT HE SHEEP DIPPERHYMER WALKOUT EGGHEAD LAST WEEKS WINNERS: J Crundwell, Croydon, Surrey, R Parry-Morris, Maldenhead, Berkshire, NG D Robinson, Deanhill Court, London; M A Williamson, Taunton, Somerset; G Don, Market Overton, Rutland.

AA INFORMATION

Latest Road and Weather conditions UK Weather- All regions 0336 444 910 UK Roads - All regions 0336 401 410 0336 401 746 0336 401 747 0336 401 748 0336 401 910 0336 401 388 Inside M25 M25 and Link Roads National Motorway: Continental Europe

416 397

World City Weather @The Met.Office ns world wide

by Falk (index page) 0336 416333 Motoring 0336 401 885 0336 401 886 0336 401 887 0336 401 882

Europe Country by Country
European fuel costs
French Motorways
Seaport information
Disneyland Paris
Le Shurtle 0336 401 409 0336 401 895 AA Car reports by fax

new and used car reports from the AA menu of 195 cars 0336 416 399 Dial from your fix handset, you may have to set to poli receive mode

Calls are charged at 45p per minute cheap rate 50p per minute at all other times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun sets: 450 pm Moon sets 11.16 am New moon February 7 London 4 50 pm to 7 37 am Bristol 5,00 pm to 7,47 am Edinburgh 4 45 pm to 8 06 am Manchester 4 52 pm to 7 52 am Penzance 5 16 pm to 7 55 am

Sun rises: 7 37 am Moon sets 11.54 am New moon February 7 London 4.52 pm to 7.36 am Bristol 5.02 pm to 7.45 am Edinburgh 4.48 pm to 8.04 am Manchester 4.54 pm to 7.51 am Penzance 5.18 pm to 7.53 am

HIGH TIDES 61636 1051 44554 4554 4577 4577 447 444 Avonmouth
Bellast
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Greenock
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Hull (Albert D)
Bracorebe
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Lerin
Lerin 23 48 20 33 16 2 15 30 17 42 23 08 22.32 38 48 37 43 34

HIGHEST & LOWEST

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for

FORECAST

General: England and Wales should start dry, with some brightness in the north and east at first. Outbreaks of rain already over the southwest and South Wales should sourwest and South Water should spread north and east to reach all but extreme eastern parts by evening. Eastern Scotland should start dry and bright, but thickening cloud will bring outbreaks of rain to all Northern Ireland and Scotland by evening.

☐ London, SE & E England, E Anglia: mostly dry, bright at first. Wind light to moderate mainly easterly. Max temp 06C (43F). ☐ Central S, Central N & NE England, Middlands, Channel Isles, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands: dry and bright at first, patchy rain later. Wind southeasterly light to moderate. Max temp 06C (43F).

Ireland: mainly cloudy with rain at times. Some bright spells in places later. Winds south to southeast moderate to fresh becoming south to southwest later. Max temp 08C (46F). ☐ N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow: cloudy with outbreaks of rain, turning to skeet over higher ground. Wind mainly south to southeast moderate to fresh. Max temp

06C (43F). ☐ Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkdrizzle later. Wind south to southeast fresh to strong. Max temp 05C (41F).

Argyfi, NW Scotland: cloudy with outbreaks of rain, turning to sleet over high ground. Wind mainly south to southeast fresh to strong, locally near

gale. Max temp 07C (45F).

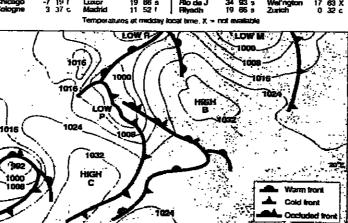
Outlook: a band of rain will cross all parts, followed by brighter weather.

AROUND BRITAIN.

SW England, S Wales, Northern

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ABROAD Corfus C'phego Dublin Dubrovn Faro Florence Frenklum Funchal Genswa Genswa Genswa Genswa Hong K frinsbrok Istanbul Jeddah Jo'hurg L Angels L Palmes L Palmes L Palmes Luxernbu Luxernbu Luxernbu Luxernbu Madrid Alendiri Alexi dria Algers Ameri dria Algers Barrasi din Albers Barrasi din Barrasi din Bermuda Berin Bermuda Berin Bermuda Budepat Cairo Cape Tri Chichure Cologne Co Malaga Meta me Meta me Meta me Menale Millam Moscow Munich N Delhi N York Najob Najob Najob Najob Paris Perin Prague Reykjawi Rhode J Blaceto de J 17 63 X 0 32 c



Changes to the chart above from noon: high B will move southeast and decline as low M moves southeast. Low R will move east and fill, while low P will move north and decoen.

🂢 Sunny

Sunny intervals Cloudy nizzle 🗪 Overcast Rain Sleet and sunny showers **Lightni**ng A Haii Snow Wind speed (mph) & direction Sea conditions CALM

The second

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NOOK TODAY



TORONTO WITH NIAGARA

BA 747 from Heathrow to Toronto on 22 May, 10 July, 6 August, 29 August or 6 September • five nights at the deluxe Sheraton • city tour • Niagara with helicopter harbour cruise ● CN Tower luncheon ● Phanton of the Opera • Concorde supersonic return £1,999

MONACO GRAND PRIX

Eurostar to Paris on 10 May

city tour

overnight Concorde supersonic to Nice luncheon and reserved seat for Monaco Grand Prix at Mirabeau Hotel ● return by private jet to Heathrow £1,499

ORIANA & ORIENT-EXPRESS

Concorde to Tenerife on 12 April ● seven night Oriana cruise to Southampton via Lanzarote, La Palma, Lisbon and Vigo • Orient-Express to Victoria £1,999

Orient-Express to Southampton on 27 May ● five night Oriana cruise to Monte Carlo via Gibraltar ● tour Riviera • Concorde supersonic from Nice £1,699

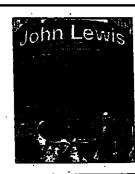
Orient-Express to Southampton on 8 June ● eleven night Oriana Land of the Midnight Sun cruise to Bergen via the Norwegian Fjords and Spitsbergen • Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £2,999 Concorde supersonic from Heathrow to Bergen on

19 June ● two night Oriana cruise to Southampton
● Orient-Express to Victoria £1,299 Orient-Express to Southampton on 16 August ● six night Oriana cruise to Tenerife via Praia da Rocha

and Casablanca ● Concorde to Heathrow £1,799 For our fall colour brochure, please telephone:



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BUSINESS

John Lewis winning more of shoppers' pound **PAGE 28**

Monday ∩ Tuesday [∪] W ednesday Thursday **WORKING WEEK**

Bank manager who won't branch out **PAGE 29**

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1 1997



SPORT

Can England keep their grip on the Calcutta Cup? **PAGES 46-52**

THE HIDDEN **ASSETS OF** HAMMERSON

> PAGE 29

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

ScotAm rejects £1.1bn bid by Abbey National

vesterday after Abbey National confirmed that Scottish Amicable had rejected a cash or shares bid worth between El.1 billion and El.4 billion. Talks between the two par-

ties began a week ago, but broke off after the Scottish insurer rejected Abbey Naovertures as "too vague and imprecise".

Under the bid terms, Scottish Amicable's 1.1 million policyholders could make at least E400 each and possibly much more from the E400 million Abbey has set aside for them.

The Abbey bid, regarded as hostile, seems to offer the money immediately on the conclusion of the deal, with no strings attached. Abbey shares rose i5½p yesterday to 784½p. Peter Birch, Abbey's chief

executive, yesterday told The Times: "We don't want this to be a hostile bid. We are not awful people and I give you this pledge that no Scottish Amicable director will lose their seat on the board even if they oppose us. A similar promise was made, and kept, to Scottish Mutual directors when Abbey National ac-

quired it in 1992. Since Scottish Amicable unveiled its plans to shed its mutual status and seek a stock market flotation in three to five years' time, the insurer and its directors have been under heavy fire. Their proposals were said to be too complex and too favourable to the handful of directors who stood to make up

to £1 million each. The Abbey bid for Scottish Amicable bears all the hallmarks of the Abbey's successful £1.4 billion acquisition of the National & Provincial Building Society. In 1995, the society's board rejected a secret approach by Abbey National, which itself shed its

HOSTILITIES broke out mutual status to become a retail bank in 1989. The Abbey successfully appealed directly to N&Ps !.4 million borrowers and savers, who received average payouts of £1,300.

Analysts now believe there is little likelihood of Scottish Amicable remaining indepen-dent and that a bidding war has begun. Many large com-panies, including Prudential, Swiss Re, NatWest, and the continental insurers Generale, Allianz and Fortis are known to be looking for a purchase in

the UK life industry. Scottish Amicable said i had received "a number of calls" from potential partners after the news broke of the Abbey approach.

Both Prudential and NatWest declined to comment yesterday. However, Prudential is known to be keen to buy a mutual life insurer and is thought to have made overtures to Scottish Widows and Septish Amicable, but was

Sandy Stewart, chairman of cottish Amicable, said: Scottish "Since Abbey's approach be-came public we have had informal approaches, but nothing concrete and nothing that could be called a white

knight."
The Scottish Amicable board has no specific legal requirement to put Abbey's terms to policyholders although the offer will get a brief mention in a circular being weeks. Mr Stewart said: "It is up to Abbey National to expand on this offer. We have told them their offer is not sufficiently precise. We believe our proposals deliver value in

> Tempus, page 30 Weekend Money, page 31 Comment, page 33



Peter Birch, Abbey chief executive, at his office in Baker Street, London, yesterday

Fidelity ban will hinder Pep push

FIDELITY Brokerage, the UK retail stockbroking arm of the world's largest fund manager, was yesterday ordered by a senior City watchdog to extend a ban on recruiting new clients for a further three months.

The Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the regulator of brokers and futures dealers, which instigated the initial "no new clients" order last Octo-ber, said that it would now take formal steps "to initiate disciplinary proceedings" against Fidelity Brokerage. This could lead to a substan-

tial fine in view of the size of the company, the number of clients who have had to be compensated and the length of time taken to sort it out.

The initial SFA ban was imposed after some of the firm's 30,000 clients complained to the watchdog over issues such as lost interest when dividend cheques were not credited to the proper account on time. Fidelity accepted then that it had "failed to resolve operational difficulties resulting from converting to a new computer system and increased volume of business". The SFA yesterday acknowledged that Fidelity had made "good progress", but said that it was "disappointed" that an end to the problems was still

some way off.
The SFA ban will hit Fidelity at the busiest time of the fiscal year - the last-minute rush to beat the taxman and

open Peps.
Phil West, marketing manimated that it had lost 300 to 400 clients since the problems emerged last year. He said that more staff had been recruited, and Ken Rathgeber, a senior figure in Fidelity's US operation, had been made acting president in the UK until the problems were resolved.

WEEKEND



Anne Ashworth on the Scottish Amicable bid

Abbey National rides to the



INVESTMENT 2



Can M&G successfully perform the splits?

BUILDING SOCIETIES

How to ensure the maximum



MONEY GUIDE



Money Guide

Your Pension

BUSINESS TODAY

FTSE 100 4275.8 (+47.4) 3.62% FTSE All share 2067.61 (+19.45) Nikkei 18330.01 (+465.97) New York: 5865.42 (+41.56)* 586 Composite 790.41 (+6.24)*

Liffe long gift Lature (Mar) 110⁻¹22 (110¹12)

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Tokyo closa Yan 122.12 Brent 15-day (Apr) \$22.55 (\$22.60)

London close ___ \$343.90 (\$347.35)

Full house

New York or dark with the con-

an Table 1

IF TAVE

By the second se

The second second second

Berkeley, the housebuilder. gave an upbeat account of trading in as it sought to raise E33 million to buy more land. Berkeley said that since its first-half report, the market had continued to be strong over Christmas and in

rate rise talk

FROM JANET BUSH IN DAVOS

Chancellor, yesterday indicated first he remains opposed to a disappointing Christmas, a Bank of England demands to

Speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, he said that his judgment that rates should remain unchanged had been reinforced since his December Il meeting with Eddie George. Governor of the Bank of England. The minutes of that meeting, published this week, showed that Mr George had pressed for a staged half-point rise, but that the Chancellor

had disagreed.

Mr Clarke yesterday said that he had felt in December that an apparent acceleration in economic activity in November had not been followed through the next month and that subsequent data had confirmed this instinct. He cited recent surveys of retail sales by the British Retail Consortium

KENNETH CLARKE, the and the Confederation of Britweak performance from manufacturing industry, some "spectacularly good" figures on cost pressures in industry and some strengthening of

sterling. He said after the January monetary meeting that the rise in sterling has been deflationary, in comments that explained the lack of a rate move then. He did not comment yesterday on more recent signs that the upward march in the pound's value may have faltered.

The Chancellor said that the

difference of opinion between himself and Mr George in December had not been huge and that the bank had only been pushing for a quarter point on base rates and, in his words, "not pushing too hard". The next monetary meeting is scheduled to take place on Wednesday.

Clarke dampens | Pound falls back in profit-taking

risen by 14 per cent in the past five months — went into reverse yesterday as the market concluded that interest rates are not destined to rise next week.

The sterling trade weighted index closed down 0.8, at 94.4, its lowest point this year, as traders began a major sell-off. At one stage the pound slipped below \$1.60, before staging a late recovery to close at \$1.6027 - a fall of more than I cent. The pound also lost ground against the mark, ending the day down more than 2 plen-

nigs, at DM2.6233.
But the FT-SE 100 climbed 47.4 to a record high of 4,275.8, boosted by the Dow's raily in early New York trading.

Traders said the fall in sterling had been influenced by yesterday's report from the National Economic and Social Research Council, which con-

cluded there is no need to raise

THE POUND -- which has base rates with sterling so strong. Martin Weale, one of the authors, is also a member of the Treasury advisory team. The sell-off of sterling, which hit a four-year high of 2.7120 against the mark on

January 22, is expected to continue as traders take profits on long positions. But a large fall, returning the pound to the levels of last summer, is considered unlikely as that would resurrect calls for interest rates to rise. Yesterday, Howard Davies, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, told the World Economic Forum in Davos,

Switzerland, that the Bank has no firm view on the strength of sterling and is concentrating solely on the inflation target.

The Dow was up 43.87, at

6867.73, early yesterday after economists concluded from fourth-quarter GDP figures that American interest rates are unlikely to rise next week.

Reed sells famous-name publishers



REED ELSEVIER, the Anglo-Dutch communications group, yesterday sold some of the best-known names in book publishing, including William Heinemann, Secker & Warburg and Methuen, in a deal that effectively means it is withdrawing from adult

book publishing. Random House, of New York one of the world's largest trade publishers, bought the imprints for about \$20 million, giving it a stable of prominent authors that includes Roddy Doyle, Umberto Eco, Graham Greene, George Orwell and Sue

By ERIC REGULY

Townsend. Together the imprints accounted for 1 per cent or less of group profits.

Reed has been selling its consumer businesses to concentrate on professional pub-lishing — in both hard copy and electronic form - in the legal, scientific and business markets. It bought Lexis-Nexis, one of the leading online publishers, and earlier this week purchased a group of American legal titles from Thomson Corp for \$49

Reed's trade book business now consists of the children's. illustrated and reference book

divisions, which are on the auction block and are expected to find buyers this year. The titles include Winnie the Pooh, Thomas the Tank Engine and The Animals of Farthing Wood

John Holloran, chief executive of Reed Books, said that Reed was the wrong size to extract any more value from the adult trade books: The adult fiction market is polarised between very large companies able to take advantage of significant economies of scale and small specialisat businesses serving niche

Bank of Ireland Mortgages



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Bank of Ireland Mortgages

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAIMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. STID 102E

Dyson picks up prize

Dyson yesterday won the European Design Prize for its bagless vacuum cleaner and launched a campaign to reform the European patent system. James Dyson, founder and managing director, attacked the way the company has to reregister its patents in every European country every year. This costs the group £300,000 a year. He is to take a case to the European Court in an attempt to bring a unified

Four other British companies were shortlisted: Innovative Technologies Group, the materials company: Psion, which makes hand-held computers: JCB, the digger group; and Blatchford Products, makers of artificial limbs.

Beales ahead

Beales, the provincial department stores group, lifted profits to £4 million (£3.17 million) before tax and exceptional items in the 53 weeks to November 2 In addition, there was an exceptional prior-year re-bate of £465,000 arising from a successful appeal against the 1990 rateable value of the Bournemouth store. Earnings were 28.8p a share (17.7p). The total dividend is 8.3p a share (6.7p), with a 5.75p final.

Bid approach

Applied Distribution, the distributor whose shares fell sharply after a profits warning last year, said it had received a number of preliminary approaches that may lead to a bid. The announcement came after its shares rose 1512p to 62p. The company said the initial indicative offers suggested a bid would be made at a discount to the closing price, which capitalised the business at £21.8 million.

Healthy rise

Fitness First, the health club operator floated on the Alternative Investment Market in October, announced pre-tax profits of £727,000 (£217,000) for the year to October 31. Turnover was £3.71 million (£2.1 million). Earnings were 2.55p a share (1.5p). There is no dividend.

http://www.the-times.co.uk



Geoff Young, left, chairman of Prism Leisure, and Bob Skelton, finance director, who reported a 28 per cent increase in interim pre-tax profits to £880,000. Earnings were 6.9p a share (5.5p). The interim dividend was 1.73p (1.38p)

Berkeley Group seeks £33m to buy more land

BERKELEY GROUP, the upmarket housebuilder, gave an exceptionally upbeat account of current trading in the housing market as it sought yesterday to raise £33 million to continue buying land. Berkeley said that since it

reported good half-year re-sults on December 10 the

mer aide to Asil Nadir, was

toasting her freedom yester-

day after an Appeal Court

judge reaffirmed that she was

Mrs Forsyth, 60, was freed

on bail on Thursday after the

judges hearing her appeal

effectively quashed her five-

unlikely to return to prison.

tions over the Christmas period and in January had materially exceeded expectations. "Current trading, therefore, is buoyant and the outlook for the full year to April 30, 1997, is very positive."

Tony Pidgley, managing director, said that the market was strong nationwide. market had continued to be very strong and sales reserva-million on land in the past few

By Jon Ashworth

Mrs Justice Bracewell and Mr

Justice Mance, reiterated their

preliminary view that the

sentence was unduly harsh.

but reserved judgment in the

case. Bail was extended on

condition that Mrs Forsyth

continues to reside with her

mother, Margaret McAlpine.

ELIZABETH FORSYTH, for- Justice Beldam, sitting with

months. From having net cash of £54 million at the end of October, it has run up borrowings of about £40 million -hence the need for yesterday's share placing.

Berkeley said that the land purchases already agreed should further underpin the group's continuing progress. SBC Warburg placed 4.75 million new shares, equal to

Mrs Forsyth is appealing

against her conviction and

sentence last year on two

counts of handling nearly

£400,000 in funds allegedly

stolen from Polly Peck Inter-

national (PPI). If successful,

she could win compensation.

will be given. The case could

it is unclear when judgment

now has a market value of about £735 million. Mr Pidgley said land purchases by housebuilders were leading to an increase in the Forsyth freedom reaffirmed price of land, "but it is not. moving at such a rate that it's impossible to acquire".

about 5 per cent of Berkeley's

share base, at 715p each. This

was 182p more than the

opening price of Berkeley's

shares yesterday morning. On the back of the upbeat trading statement, the shares contin-

ued their strong run to close at 735p, a record high. Berkeley

Graham Roper, chairman, and two other directors, John Jacobs and Roger Lewis, exercised options over 203,411 shares. All but 40,000 of these were placed by SBC Warburg. Mr Pidgley suggested that the exercise price of the op-tions was about 240p, which

would mean the three together

made a gross profit of about £1

VENTURE capital backers of Porterbrook, the train leasing company controversially sold for E825 million last summer,

yesterday made £210 million by selling shares in Stagecoach, the bus and train operating company that bought it (Paul

The 28.9 million shares sold

were part of the consideration

TOURIST RATES

Durman writes).

New Zeeland \$ 2.48
Norway Kr 11.00
Portugal Esc 275.00
S Africa Rd 7.91
Spain Pta 29.50
Sweden Kr 12.25
Switzerland Fr 2.42
USA \$ 1.707

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The president of Toyota,

the world's dominant car

maker, could not have

guessed he had unwittingly

dropped a stone that was to

create great waves

following day. But Hiroshi-

Okuda had re-opened a

debate which raised a

critical question for a

government which prided itself on attracting record levels of foreign investment

to the UK. How important

is the single corrency to

foreign investors in

Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

CHANGING TIMES

this country . . ?

million.

Tempus, page 30

Charterhouse cashes in

John Lewis sees sales rise above **forecast**

By Sarah Cunningham

THE John Lewis Partnership, the department store and Waitrose supermarket group, yesterday enjoyed strong trad-ing in its second half, it disclosed yesterday. The fig-ures suggest that the group is taking market share from other retailers, and also bode well for the annual bonuses of its 35,000 partners.

In the 26 weeks to January 25, sales in the department stores rose by 12.4 per cent, and Waitrose sales rose by 8.7 per cent. This gave a total for the group of a 10.6 per cent increase in sales over the second half. The group's expectation had been for a 7.5 per cent rise in sales.

According to Tony Shiret, stores analyst with BZW, the John Lewis chain is clearly taking market share in some areas, particularly in its traditional strengths such as furniture and other home furnishings. Fashions and dress fabrics also saw strong trade. The group will announce its full-year profits, and the level of the annual bonuses to be paid to partners, on March 6. In the final week of the financial year, department store sales were ahead by 13 per cent. Brian O'Callaghan, director of trading for department stores, said: "Furnishing textiles has enjoyed a vintage half-year." Electrical appliances also sold outstandingly well. hotly pursued by upholstery and cabinet furniture".

he said "On the whole, fortune has favoured us this half-year," Mr O'Callaghan said, citing "improved customer confidence, an upturn in the housing market, helpful weather conditions and, most importantly, growing strength in our assortments

Waitrose ended the year on a less positive note. In the final week, sales were up by 4.5 per cent. One factor that may have handicapped Waitrose was the growing popularity of the loyalty cards introduced by many of its publicly quoted rivals.

David Felwick, director of

food trading, gave warning against complacency, saying: "We are likely to see a tightening of competitive pressures and a need, on our part, to remain on the top of our

paid by Stageroach to Chart-erhouse Development Capital

and other investors in Porterbrook. The sale, handled by

UBS, the investment bank, crystallises another huge profit for Porterbrook investors and management, who invest-ed only £75 million of equity

when the leasing company

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most of your tax-free investment without breaching the rules.

was privatised last January.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Southern Electric plans £156m payback

SHARES of Southern Electric rose 13½ p. to 800½ p. yesterday after the regional power company announced plans to distribute £156 million to shareholders through a complex share capital restructuring.

Southern Electric's proposals mirror those of Yorkshire Water, which is handing £145 million to its shareholders, with a complex split and buyback designed to avoid a tax: clampdown on straightforward buybacks and special dividends, imposed last year by Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer. Under the Southern Electric plan every existing ordinary share will be replaced with 1.84 new ordinary shares and two new B shares. SBC Warburg, the merchant bank that also devised the Yorkshire Water scheme, will offer to buy in the B shares on Southern's behalf, with no dealing costs. Shareholders will be offered 30p in cash for every B share, equivalent to 60p per existing share. Ken Coates, chairman of Southern Electric, said: These proposals demonstrate our continuing commitment to return value to shareholders consistent with the ongoing development and growth of the business and improving service standards." Southern has been under pressure to do something with its cash since retreating last year from the takeover battle with ScottishPower for Southern Water.

SR Gent considers bids

SR GENT, a Marks & Spencer clothing supplier, is still considering takeover approaches from several parties, it said yesterday. In the meantime, Peter Wolff has decided to sten down from being executive chairman to the position of nonexecutive president and Peter Wetzel, deputy chairman, is to become non-executive deputy chairman. "These new roles will help to avoid any conflict of interest between their current positions as both executive directors and majority shareholders," said the company. The shares fell 2p to 57½ p.

Citigate details

CITIGATE, the PR firm, and Incepta Group, the recruitment consultants, yesterday detailed the reverse takeover that will take Citigate on to the stock market. Incepta is placing 41.6 million new shares to raise E8.32 before expenses - £3 million for the company and £5.32 million for certain Citigate shareholders — and the enlarged group will have a market capitalisation of at least £33.9 million. The offer is for 216.1 new incepta shares for each Citigate share. Incepta's shares, suspended in December, will be relisted on March 3.

Partridge profits flat

PRE-TAX profits at Partridge Fine Arts, the fine art auctioneer, were unchanged at £1.8 million in the year to October 31. The company said that the summer months failed to produce the level of business that had been expected after an encouraging start to the year. Some buoyancy returned in the autumn, and the current financial year had started well, the company said. Earnings of 5.86p a share fell from 5.93p previously. The total dividend rises to 3.1p a share from 2.9p,

Pound hits Photo-Me

PHOTO-ME International, the photo-booth manufacturer and operator, blamed the strength of the pound for a fall in pre-tax profits, from £10.1 million to £9.1 million, in the six months to October 31. The company, which earns 60 per cent of its profits overseas, said that there was a modest increase in trading profits after removing the impact of sterling's rise. The interim dividend is held at 1.5p a share, which is pay 7.45p a share from 8.94p.

BWG to buy Appleby

APPLEBY WESTWARD Group, the Spar convenience store distributor based in southwest England, has agreed to a £9.5 million takeover by BWG, a subsidiary of Pernod Ricard, which operates the Spar franchise in the Irish Republic. BWG's cash offer of 171p a share has received acceptances in respect of 76 per cent of Appleby's shares. On the stock market, Appleby shares rose 38½p to 167½p yesterday. Appleby distributes to 260 Spar stores in an area that takes in Appleby distributes to 260 Spar stores in an area that takes in Bournemouth, Bristol, Exeter, and Southampton.

Modern

aPark

90. in Great Dunmow, Essex. year prison sentence. Lord establish a legal precedent. Melvyo Braggion the direction Channel Four will take after: the departure of Michael Grade

2.04 18.01 52.95 2.114 0.769 9.82 7.76 8.63 4.97 100 0.588 4.97 2543 194.60 0.588 2.266 10.20 7.111 216.50 2.18.50 11.46 2.24 18.1577 **Tessas** on test With interest rates at their lowest for The array of different Tessas a generation it is time to look again at can be daunting. Fixed and lessas. Are they still the 'must-have' variable rate Tessas seem sim investment? And how do they - but are they? How risky are measure up against alternatives? equity-linked Tessas? And what are the hidden costs In this week's investors Chronicle, behind Tessas guaranteeing Tessas are put to the test. minimum return? thousands of miles away the

For all you need to know about

Tessas don't miss this week's

Investors Chronicle. On sale

Friday, 31st January.

Jon Ashworth discovers a man who is happy running a little-known financial institution that bears a famous name

6 We looked at

the City but the

identity would

be lost outside

Harrods 9

Tuesday U Wednesday

n Electric

1001

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a loss Applet

IT IS easy to miss it. but Harrods, the fashionable Knightsbridge store, has its own bank. And a fully-Thursday viding mortgages, fledged one, too, proloans, chequebooks and everything else

one would associate with a high street bank. Money can be withdrawn from cash dispensers up and down the land. Quite impressive, all things considered.

The difference is that Harrods Bank has only one branch, and the man who runs it, John Simmonds, is not your typical bank manager. He sets interest rates, creates his own mortgages, and takes tea with ladies who lunch. After 35 years with Lloyds Bank, he is, at 60, enjoying an unusual choice of second career. Not everyone would warm to the task.

Harrods Bank was founded by Harrods, is situated in Harrods and draws 60 per cent of its business from Harrods. However, it is not connected with Harrods. This bizarre situation harks back to the row between Tiny Rowland and Mohamed Al Fayed who, with his brothers, paid £615 million for House of Fraser in 1985.

The Department of Trade and Industry later published a damning report on the deal. saying that the Fayeds had lied about their family background and early business life in order to

gain credibility. The Bank of England subsequently forced them to relinquish operational and voting control of Harrods Bank. The

voting shares were vested in the hands of Law Debenture Trust, an investment trust acting as trustee, and a new chairman and two new nonexecutive directors were appointed.

Chinese Walls prevail — to the extent that Simmonds is obliged to lease the floor space on which the bank is positioned. He pays Harrods for vouchers and hampers used in promotions, and he is invoiced if he uses the rooms upstairs for functions. Some Harrods executives hold accounts here, but Mohamed Al

Fayed is not among them. The tourists who wander wide eyed through Harrods would be hard pressed to make the distinction. Cash machine cards are emblazoned with a picture of the Knightsbridge store. Customers are plied. with green Harrods bags. Short of a large, red danger sign, one would never

know the difference. Simmonds, who arrived on the scene in July 1994, is reluctant to dwell on this most sensitive of topics. Suffice it to say that Harrods Bank is "completely and utterly independent of the store". The Bank of England, he says, had grown uneasy about secondary banks in general, and the changes would have happened anyway.

The most he will admit to in his dealings with Mohamed Al Fayed - "The owner -- is a dispute over the positioning

of the teddy bear display near by. Simmonds wanted it moved. The owner said he would have his wish when the bank started to make more in sales per square foot than the bears. That taught me one very important lesson," says Simmonds. "In a retail environment, it is all about what can be got out of the space."

An hour with Simmonds will convince you that Harrods Bank deserves to be taken seriously. It may have only one branch, but you can draw money from any number of Visa Delta cash dispensnachines — 10,000 in the UK alone. Clearing services are provided by Royal Bank of Scotland. The bank is open when Harrods is open, making it handy for obsessives who cannot see enough of their

bank manager.

The trouble is, no one knows this.
Many assume Harrods Bank is simply a
jazzed-up branch of NatWest or Barclays.
Those who make the distinction dismiss Harrods Bank as a girnmick; a token bank, something that cannot be taken seriously. Would you really feel safe putting your life savings here?

It is telling that so many of the bank's 3,500 depositors are from overseas. They include Americans (the biggest single group), Spaniards and Singaporeans -but few Japanese: ever conservative in

their dealings, Simmonds insists there are "surprisingly few" Middle Éastern clients, but admits to dealings with traditionally clad Arabs.

Alert to money laun-dering, UK banks are likely to challenge anyone seeking to exchange £1,000 or more in cash. This does not necessarily work at Harrods. Take the recent case of the Harrods manageress who fraudulent-

ly ran up £120,000 on a customer's Gold Mastercard in the space of just three months. The cardholder didn't even notice. Simmonds says: "You have to be watchful. But you have to do it in a tactful way so as not to give offence to someone who might be a very high spender."

The rich do come to call. Nick Faldo has

been observed cashing his cheques. Larry Hagman, alias J.R. Ewing in Dallas, distributed autographed cards to anyone who would take them. "He assumed that people would automatically be interested

Harrods Bank was set up in 1893 as a repository for funds sent in from the far corners of the Empire. "It probably started by accident," says Simmonds. "Harrods had a lot of overseas customers - the typical colonials - and they would write in to Harrods and say, send Auntie Maude a hamper for Christmas. Then it became school uniforms for little Johnny. and so on. Harrods suddenly found it was getting large dollops of money which it was holding for clients. It tended to evolve

A century on, account holders range from local Knightsbridge residents to citizens of the Middle East. "They tend to



come over very much for the high summer, when it's very hot in Saudi." says Simmonds. "They come over from August to September, enjoy London, have a huge shopping spree, theatres and all the rest of it, and then go back. Very often they will feed the accounts here, ready for their trip to the UK."

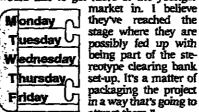
No individual customer can borrow more than £500,000 or deposit more than £1 million. "It means you're not beholden to anyone to any huge extent."

Simmonds was brought in to steer the bank after his predecessor left to work for an Arab bank. "The bank wanted a sort of caretaker situation, really. The briefing was to take a look at Harrods, see where it was, see where it should be and start getting it there. And then, ultimately, to find a successor for it. A brief like that in a small bank, to a banker, was manna from Heaven."

He hopes to sign up customers at a rate of about 50 a month, increasing the number of depositors from 3,500 to 5,000. Harrods Bank currently has about £20 million on deposit and £10 million in loans. It has 75 mortgage customers. many of them foreigners seeking London

rental income. Elderly local residents make up most of

the account holders, and Simmonds is keen to widen the net. He would like to attract younger dients. "My customers predominantly would be mature, and I would like to get more of the younger



they've reached the stage where they are possibly fed up with being part of the sterectype clearing bank set-up. It's a matter of packaging the project in a way that's going to attract them."

He also has his eye on doctors, dentists, lawyers and other professionals. "If you help get them into their first practice, you really have got them for life. With a bit of good measure."

Simmonds is immersed in his task. He surfaces at music recitals - the bank sponsors pianists including Nikolai Demidenko and Melvyn Tan - and pays occasional visits to housebound customers. He gave a speech at the London Ladies Club; much to the annoyance of NatWest, which claimed the territory as its own.

It is a far cry from Lloyds, where Simmonds rose to become one of two area managers responsible for London's West End. After falling victim to a purge in 1991, he worked as a consultant and expert witness and was even offered a range of posts in Russia. "One was in Siberia, one was only about 50 miles from Chernobyl, Aeroflot didn't have the best safety record in the world, my wife wasn't exactly bursting with enthusiasm...

He promised to do the Harrods job for at least three years, and claims to be enjoying himself. There are no plans to open other branches. "We've looked at the City, but the identity would be lost outside Harrods."

Simmonds in many ways represents a throwback to an older, more genteel form of banking. Those who come to call will not be pressured to take out pensions or savings plans, or quizzed about their home contents insurance. As he says: "Where the devil do people go in this day and age for free advice? It's not very easy to get it in the high street these days." Harrods Bank may well have the

answer. Pity no one has heard of it.

Modern lines become a Park Lane classic

A s you drive south along Park Lane there is a point just before you reach the Dorchester where out of towners slow down to a snailish crawl, crane their heads to the left and swerve around dangerously trying to find a tay-by to pull in.

Trying to absorb the view, they eventually get swept on by the torrent of taxis, buses and impatient townie drivers who never seem to notice interesting buildings on their own home territory.

The object of attention for all these gawping tourists is No 100 Park Lane, the home of the UK headquarters of Hammerson plc, the property and investment development company whose fame — if it is known at all — is as the builder of Brent Cross shopping centre. But Hammerson shrewdly bought a long lease on the magnificent 19th-century villa over-

The HQ of the builders of Brent Cross retains its elegance, says Joanna Pitman

looking Hyde Park for its own use in 1969 and has upgraded the interior into spacious and highly decorative offices.

The company has also opened up gallery space to show collections of contemporary art works, on sale to employees and clients. The modern art is dotted around in these gracious boardrooms, meeting rooms and offices and there is a studied high-tech modernity to the lighting and furniture. Yet the building has retained enough of its original ele-gance to stand at ease with the changes.

The house was built in 1827 for Viscount Dudley and Ward under the supervision of William Atkinson and J. Garding Deering. architect of St Mark's Church in North Audley Street. It was designed to reflect his status in life as a politician and incorporated magnificent yellow, blue and red drawing rooms of grand proportions and decoration. all overlooking the park. He died unmarried in 1833 and a

distant relative, William, Earl of Dudley, bought the Lord Dudley extended the house to include a picture gallery, a heavily gilded and decorative dining room designed by Sir Charles Barry and a ballroom where some of the most glittering occasions in the social calendar

Georgina Dudley became more and more of a socialite as her husband withdrew

from society as a recluse. She hosted parties and dinners, gathering the cream of London society, and struck up a friendship with Edward, Prince of Wales. The kitchens were among the largest in London, one for the food being prepared

for the family and guests, another for the servants who served the food for the family, and yet another for the who served the servants After the Earl died the social whiri of Dudley House subsided and its occupation became patchy. In 1938, when the last Dudley Ward occu-

pant died, the house was

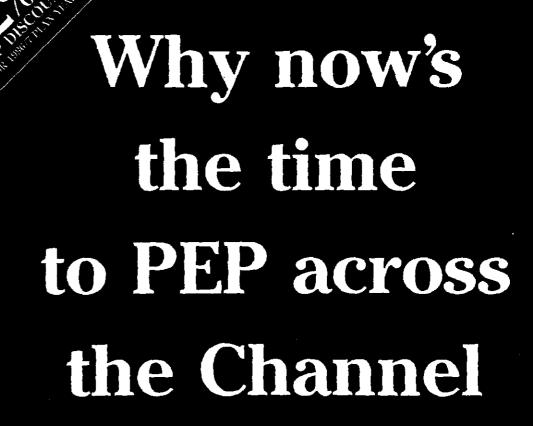
requisitioned by the Govern-

ment as offices. It suffered severe bomb damage in the Second World War. After the war the lease reverted to the Grosvenor Estate and in 1969 Hammerson took it, on agreeing to do the necessary restoration work to return the house

to its former giory.

The late Sir Basil Spence was commissioned to undertake the restoration, reorganising the ballroom and picture gallery for office accommodation and constructing a marble-floored atrium. The wonderful central staircase, which was part of the original house, remains intact and provides a perfect setting for the two extant portraits of the Dudleys by

Sir Joshua Reynolds. Elsewhere, however, the Dudleys would be surprised to find most of the rest of their home now decorated with avant garde art and intimate photographs of con-



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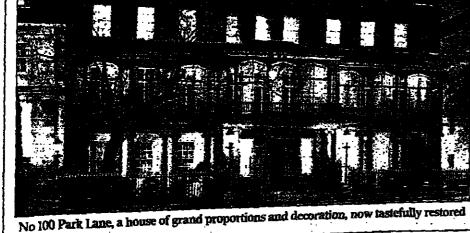
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MICHAEL CLARK

Firm gilts and Dow rally lift London to new highs

continued to take its lead from Wall Street as another wave of institutional buying swept the FT-SE 100 index to yet another

The index got off to a flying start on the back of an 83-point rise in the Dow Jones industrial average overnight and closed at its best of the day with a leap of 47.4 to 4.275.8. That compares with the previous best of 4,273.4 and stretches the rise on the week in London to 57 points. A total of 849 million shares had changed hands by the close. New York kept up the pace

in early trading yesterday on the back of the latest GDP figures, which showed growth without inflationary risks. Rises of more than Et in gifts also underpinned the equity market in London

Early attention focused on the broadcasting sector after Carlton Communications, up 39p at 55812p, BSkyB, 1812p dearer at 599p, and Granada. 1012p better at 807p, announced they were linking up to bid for the right to broadcast digital terrestrial television in this country.

The joint venture company will be called British Digital Broadcasting. Flextech, which has already linked up with the BBC to develop a digital service, climbed 30p to 600p. By contrast United News & Media, publisher of the Daily Express and owner of Meridien and Anglia Television, has ruled itself out of bidding for a digital licence. The price dipped 94p to

70212p The move to digital has not been well received by the cable companies which see it as increased competition. There were setbacks for Nynex. 1412p to 9912p. Telewest. Hp to 117p. and General Cable, 13p

to 170p.

EMI Group continued to lose ground with the price dropping a further 4012p to E12.11, for a two-day deficit of 6712p. A report confirms that sales in the music industry worldwide remain static. Earlier this week Music Land, the tailer in the US, filed for protection under Chapter II.

Abbey National rose 1512p to 784p after its £1 billion bid for Scottish Amicable was rejected. Abbey is still expected to make an offer of around £350 to each of Scottish Amicable's 1.5 million policyholders. The rest of the banks



Developments on digital TV depressed cable shares

were marked higher in the run-up to the dividend reporting season with Barclays up 22p at £11.6412. HSBC 3912p at £14.9312. Standard Chartered 21p at 771p, and Bank of

Ireland 20p at 590p. Elsewhere in the financial sector speculative buying, generated by news of the ap-proach for Scottish Amicable. lifted General Accident 24p to 806p. Commercial Union llp announcing plans to hand back a total of £156 million via a complex capital reconstruction. Hopes that other utilities may follow suit lifted Thames Water 19p to 67712p, South West Water 1212p to 675p. Severn Trent 12p to 70412, Anglian Water Sp to 63312p, and Hyder S12p to 81712p.

Premier Farnell touched 51212p before ending the day 6p better 52612p as it complet-

Tomkins, the guns to buns group, rose 82p to 280p. Salomon Brothers, the US securities house, has begun following the company's fortunes and rates the shares a "buy". Just as well. There was a mute response to last month's figures which served to highlight the continuing underperformance of the shares.

to 69712p, and Legal & General 712p to 387p.

Biocompatibles Interna-

tional was the strongest performer on the day, surging 215p, or 22.8 per cent, to £11.55 with the warrants 1221 ap higher at 400p. It follows publication by Merrill Lynch of a major report on the company forecasting a target price for the shares of Elo.

Southern Electric advanced 13p to 80012p after ed the sale of its electronics components distribution business. The shares are still down 164p on the week after this week's shock profits warning just a year after Farnell paid £1.7 billion for Premier Industries in the US.

Berkeley Group. the upmarket housebuilder, reached a new high with a leap of 38p at 735p on the back of a bullish trading statement. Its market remains strong. The company

MOVERS	OF THE WEEK
Current price pric	Week's classifie 164p Profits warning +65p Joint bid for digital TV +223½p Talking to brokers -18½p Profits warning +27½p Ingersoll Pland counter-bid 123p Profits warning -46p Worries about current trading +62½p Profits warning -62½p Higher profits/pick-up in US

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total of 4.75 million shares with various institutions at 715p. It wants the money to replenish its coffers after splashing out E54 million on its land bank in recent

and Lettuce chain of pubs, fell 6p to 21op after denying recent speculation that it had received a bid approach. The share price has come up from 165p in little more than a week. The company is due to unveil half-year figures later this month. The group is currently capitalised at £31.5 million.

Laura Ashley, the soft furnishings group, fell 4p to 15712p as a line of 600,000 ket at 1550.

from Pan Andean, the AIMlisted, loss-making oil exploration group, failed to live up to expectations, leaving the price 212p lower at 65p. A disappointing drilling report last year saw the shares drop from a peak of 135p.

maufacturer, has received several bid approaches and brokers say the directors may be holding out for a high price. This may be why the shares ended 2p easier at 5712p. The company currently carries a price tag of £22 million. GILT-EDGED: The

a strong start after a positive performance overnight by US Treasury bonds. Prices at the longer end climbed by more than £l.

which were perceived to be good for the economy and al Open Market Committe meets next week. The March series of the long

the total number of contracts reached 69,000. Treasury 8 per ent 2015 out on £1 £1031516, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was five ticks better □ NEW YORK: A firm bond market translated into a stock market rally for the third consecutive day and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 41.56 points higher at 6.865.42.

Frankfurt Singapore: Brussels: General the share price to raise extra funds totalling almost £34 Paris: million via a placing. SBC Warburg, the broker, placed a Zurich: London:

MAJOR INDICES

Tokyo: Nikkel Average 18350.01 (+465.97)

3035.15 (+17.83)

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4275.8 (+47.4

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RECENT ISSUES

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RIGHTS ISSUES

Grosvenor Inns. the Slug

shares went through the mar-The latest drilling reports

SR Gent, the clothing

London bond market got off to

The market also received a boost from from the latest American GDP numbers urdikely to prompt a rise in interest rates when the Feder-

gilt rose £2532 to £1103132 as

TEMPUS

Abbey sinks flotation

channels — more than any

sane viewer could require -

but that is not the point.

Cable TV, unlike DTT, is

capable of providing high-

speed interactive services

such as home shopping, home banking and Internet

access. The potential here is

enormous but will take years

Flextech was the one com-

PROGRAMMING POWER

Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan

ABBEY NATIONAL has driven a coach and horses through Scottish Amicable's cosy flotation plans, and the directors of the insurance group are hopping mad. This is hardly surprising; a stock market quote provided an opportunity to offer incentives to ScotAm's staff including the directors who could earn £1 million apiece.

From that perspective, it is easy to understand why ScotAm's bosses are not feeling amicable towards the Abbey. The latter's £400 million cash or shares offer to policyholders sounds better than the £200 million gain on flotation that ScotAm proposes. ScotAm talks up the future benefits of flotation but most of the 1.1 million policyholders will be tempted by cash on the nail. The insurer forecasts that it will be able to match Abbey's offer by expanding the company at 25

per cent a year in the years preceding flotation, but such growth depends on the success of an untested new fund established with capital from Swiss Re. To beat Abbey's offer, the new fund must grow by an ambitious 30 per cent each year.

Abbey is playing a strong card by offering to keep the ScotAm directors in their Stirling offices. When Abbey bought Scottish Mutual in 1992 it gave a similar five-year commitment which has just expired. Abbey is keeping mum about cost-savings — a City euphemism for job cuts — but Scottish Mutual's Glasgow office is likely to bear the brunt. It would be at least courteous to provide ScotAm policyholders with a chance to consider Abbey's offer before the flotation vote. Long-term performance is all very well but few policyholders are expecting £1 million bonuses.

pany whose share price rise

was not overdone. A joint venture with the BBC is to

provide the four subscription

channels that will form the

heart of the 15 channel-menu

provided by the Carlton-led

DTT group. The BBC is a

strong brand and the sale of

the four channels will guar-

antee it ever increasing in-

come for ten years.

Battle Scot.

Flextech

THE stock market yesterday divided media stocks into two neat camps of winners and losers. Carlton, Granada and BSkyB, the commercial broadcasters that banded together to launch digital terrestrial television (DTT), gained ground. The shares of cable companies slumped. Both reactions were overdone

Cable suffered because investors fear that DTT will expense. Initially, the new service will have capacity for about 30 channels, a decadent overabundance to most viewers, used to a mere four. But the cost of these channels to subscribers has not been revealed and may prove no cheaper than the cable-TV offerings. Cable-TV, in digital form,

will provide hundreds of

shquay n/p (33) 2 ! Portlant n/p (190) 10 all Eng n/p (250) 8!: orland n/p (500) 72";	City salaries WHAT is a quant and how does it earn El million? This week a recruitment agency
MAJOR CHANGES	advertised several jobs for quantitative researchers, in- cluding "global head of quan-

771p (+21p)

359p (+9'.p)

590p (+20p)

6300 (-20p)

504p (-131.p)

466p (-13p)

....... 251'ap (+10p)

..... 176p (-13p)

.... . 497¹:p (-11p)

Closing Prices Page 45

2.9494.24673 54.944.54793 14.002.10.005 54.23.12.005 52.24.50.57 52.24.50.57 52.12.85.22.18 528.1.290.5 1.950.2.1693 1.950.1.039 8.3546.85617 11.573.11.399 8.3546.85617 11.573.11.399 8.3546.85617 11.573.11.399 8.3546.85617

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IGES	quantitative researchers, in-
5'-p (+20p) 8'-p (+39p) 3p (+11'-p) 8i'p (+16p) 3'-p (+12p) 99p (+39p) 7'-p (+13p)	titative research", a job requiring a PhD and six years of work in the field. Applicants are said to be numerous, attracted by a base salary of up to £1 million and the reassuring statement that "management experi-
106p (∸24p) i	ence not necessary".

bank with pretensions fills its backroom with quants or rocket scientists: the caricature depicts highly numerate males in their 20s with a tical models of the market. Lacking interpersonal skills. they more than make up for it with an ability to predict short-term price trends.

Any global investment

A statistical approach to investment is attractive to picking. But such people are in short supply and this leads to a different kind of risk.

plain English, it is an overhead.

In the old days, brokers didn't earn salaries, they lived off half the commission on their trades. That protected the firm in hard times and enabled it to expand without extra capital. But the misguided banks believe that employees must be loval team-players. In desperate pursuit of a perfect investment theory, they offer guaranteed bonuses to tempt talent into their fold. Inevitably, the quants will quit, lose credibility or a bundle for the banks. What is a quant? In

Berkeley

BERKELEY'S reputation rests on astute reading of the housing market, first furning its land holdings into cash in 1988 and then buying sites ahead of the recovery in 1991-92. Judging from yesterday's nent, the housebuilder

has once again spotted an opportunity and is moving wiftly to take advantage.

Berkeley has spent not far short of £100 million on land in the past three months and is raising another £33 million to keep on buying. Its move is supported by a sudden surfeit of enthusiasm among housebuvers. Berkelev. whose houses cost £210,000 on average, was awash with good news yesterday: the market was very strong, sales were materially ahead of expectations, trading was buoyant and the outlook very

Buying land now should enable the company to avoid having to pay over the odds when land prices inevitably

Berkeley's shares have had a tremendous run. In the current environment it is difficult to argue with Berkeley's record. The shares look expensive, but quality never comes cheap.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

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ANNUITIES 33

The different treatment of illnesses

WEEKEND MONEY

INVESTMENT 38

The changing face for funds in Hong Kong



Lambeth

targets

speculators

The Lambeth Building Society has moved to exclude "carpet baggers", while savers with

Bank of Ireland in July or August. The Lambeth has taken the bold

attempt to ward off speculators

The Bristol & West published

approved, details of free shares

The transfer of business and

About a million borrowers and

The society needs a high propor-

MARIANNE CURPHEY

savers will qualify for either cash

members.

THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

Battle for ScotAm under way

Policyholders are irritated by a deal which they claim will only benefit management, say

Marianne Curphey and Anne Ashworth

olicyholders with cottish Amicable could be an average £400 richer by the summer if their board accepts a £400 million windfall tabled by Abbey National yesterday.

The mutual's controversial plans to float in three to five year's time have been thrown into doubt after the bank offered a cash or shares deal to Scottish Amicable's 1.1 million with profit policyholders.

Though the payout is of similar value to the one Scottish Amicable is promising but not guaranteed to pay on flotation. Abbey plans to pay immediately, rather than at least three years hence. In addition, Abbey will offer cash or shares, while Scottish Amicable plans to add bonuses to life policies. The money will not be accessible until the policies mature in up to 25 years' time.

Scottish Amicable is facing increasing opposition from policyholders who feel they have been short-changed by their board's offer. They are angry that payments to policyholders are by no means guaranteed and are decendent on strong future growth of at least 25 per cent each year. In order to better the Abbey's offer, ScotAm will have to grow by 30 per cent yearly an ambitious target.

Meanwhile, the mutual's management stand to benefit by up to £12 million on flotation. At the forefront of the campaign to secure a better deal for members is Stephen Ross of Northways. a firm of London insurance

Mr Ross, who has been a ScotAm policyholder for 17 years, wants an independent professional opinion on the deal which he believes disadvantages policyholders who are the owners of the

company. He said: "My speciality is motor and household insurance. I claim no special expertise in the financial services field but speak as an ordinary Scottish Amicable investor. The Abbey Nat-



Houghton-Connell: critical

ional bid for the company has only served to reinforce my initial misgivings about the proposed demutualisation. It is now more vital than ever that we have an independent review and an independent valuation." Other policyholders who

share Mr Ross's scepticism have contacted The Times, irritated by the meagre bonuses being offered to policyholders, which contrast with the rich rewards that could be in store for directors. Desmond Houghton-Connell, a landscape de er from Petworth, West Sussex, holds three Scottish Amicable endowment policies. Like Mr Ross, Mr Houghton-Connell does not object to Scottish Amicable's wish to demutualise but believes that policyholders should be better compensat-

ship of the business. His objections add to his general dissatisfaction with investment performance: The rise in share prices has not been reflected in our bonuses?

ed for giving up the owner-

In light of the policyhold-ers' resistance to the deal proposed by the Scottish Amicable board, insurance analysts now believe there is little likelihood of the company remaining independent and that a bidding war is insurance groups including Prudential, Swiss Re, Nat-West, and Generale, Allianz and Fortis, the continental insurers, are known to be looking for a purchase in the UK life industry. Scottish Amicable said it had received "a number of calls" from potential partners after the news broke of the Abbey

Policyholders will receive some limited information about the Abbey bid when they receive a circular in the next two weeks. Sandy Stewart, Scottish Amicable chairman, said the documents would contain "reference" to the Abbey offer, but claimed the offer was at present "too vague and imprecise" to merit full discussion within the documents.

He said that despite claims that the board would benefit greatly from the deal, the non-executive directors had scrutinised the Scottish Amicable proposals and believed them to be in the best interests of our policyholders". However, the merchant bankers and lawvers advising the company and representing policyholders' interest must also examine the

Meanwhile, in an attempt to win support for the proposals, which will be put to the vote in March, Scottish Amicable embarked on a charm offensive. A new candour has crept into the company's attempts to justify its decision to shed its mutual status and become a quoted company. Instead of portraying the deal as a windfall bonanza for the 1.1 million with-profit policyholders, Scottish Amicable now admits that it needs to give a new direction to the company

The company has been forced to defend the proposed new employee share scheme from which a dozen Scottish Amicable directors and exec-

and its staff.



as £12 million, provided they improve profitability by 15 per cent or more a year until 2001. Roy Nicholson, chief executive of Scottish Amicable. said this week that he was aiming for a 25 per cent improvement, which could boost with-profit policyholders' funds by as much as £321 million. Another £35 million would be shared by staff and directors. The 12 managers would get 35 per cent, around

2,200 employees. The rewards for policytial. The first demuthe second demutualisation

E12 million, leaving E23 mil-

lion to be shared among

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

holders are far less substantualisation bonus to be paid this year will be worth £75 million, an average of around £70 per policyholder. Scottish Amicable estimates bonus, to be distributed in three or five years, to be worth between £250 million HIGHER,

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Season of nasty surprises

The changing seasons are marked as regularly on the stock market as in real life. Now is the season of the profit warning. Quoted companies that draw their accounts up to the end of the calendar year, or in the first three months of the new year, are now a big majority. And as boards get their first glimpse of the reckoning, there are bound to be some nasty surprises. A few years ago, boards would say

nothing in public until they published disappointing results, but hints would be dropped to any market professional who cared to ask that they should not expect too much. Under modern rules. they should make an official statement if they think the market is under a misapprehension. But it is a moot point how far out City forecasts need to be before a company corrects them. Premier Farnell was embarking on a

series of visits to stockbrokers on Wednesday but did not get beyond its first point of call at BZW, its own broker. which advised a statement. The Farnell case shows, however, why companies wish to avoid drama if they can. The last-minute change of plan led to Premier Famell shares shedding a quarter of their market value by Thursday night, a fall seemingly disproportionate to the bad news.

As in the earlier cases of Sainsbury and Sears, both repeat offenders, the extent of the price fall owes more to lack of trust than shortfall in profits. That is partly because analysts and fund managers are upset at being proved wrong. In the first month of 1997, however, profit warnings have been worse than as shown by the market's relief at a



the expected series of random nasty surprises. There are far more than usual, and most play the same refrain. The rise in sterling is beginning to hurt. Over the past six months, the pound's average value abroad has risen 14 per cent, varying from a 6 per cent gain against the dollar to nearer 17 per cent against the mark and its satellites.

Aside from giving an unexpected, and somewhat misplaced, boost to the case for joining the euro, this is hitting profits in two ways. The first, most general and least important is that profits earned in subsidiaries abroad count for less in sterling this year than last.

Unless financial ratios are upset, this translation effect is a one-off and might be reversed as soon as financial markets thought German or American interest rates were more likely to rise than Britain's. As America is the most generous host of British overseas investment, the impact so far could be worse,

Genuine trading effects can be more damaging. Continental goods become relatively cheaper over there, in Britain and in third-country export markets.

The 1992-93 gain to competitiveness from leaving Europe's exchange-rate mechanism has been lost. Investors need to worry more about this than translation of overseas profits. The impact on sales and profit margins is genuine and can inflict permanent damage even if the currency movements are partly reversed at another stage in international economic cycles.

lready, forecasts of domestic economic growth are being scaled back because exports are being lost and, to a lesser extent, home. sales lost to imports. Forecaster at the National Institute, once more optimistic than the Chancellor, are now looking for more modest 1997 growth of 25 per cent.

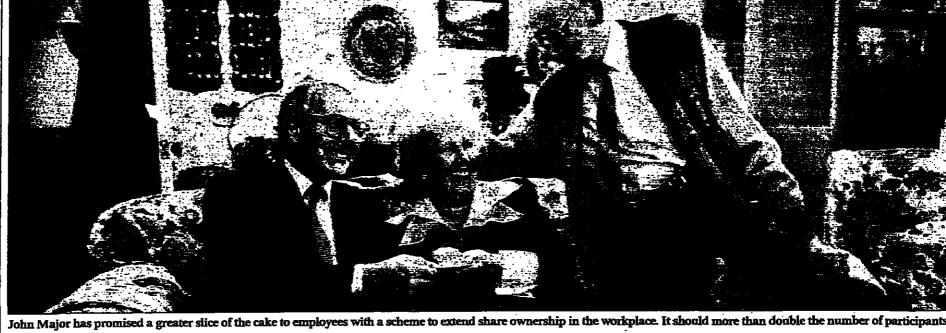
On the stock market, systematic revisions of profit forecasts are beginning to affect overall prospects. Natwest Securities, which builds its earnings projections from forecasts of individual companies, has already found its projected Il per cent rise in reported earnings in 1997 falling into single figures, probably to about 9 per cent, big sectors such as

pharmaceuticals being badly hit. That will make it harder for the share index to scale new heights in the short term. But sterling's surge curbs inflation and limits the need for any rise in interest rates before May. By then, politics will be the chief concern and City air will ring to a different kind of warning.

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Equity boost for the employees

John Major kicked off his re-election campaign yes-terday with a pledge at least to double the number of employees owning shares in

large companies.

Launching "Sharematch", the Prime Minister said he wanted to encourage more people to join approved profit-sharing and share-option schemes by relaxing the rules governing them. The Government currently loses £200 million in lost revenue through such schemes.

His move is likely to counteract the effect of last November's Budget which started the phased withdrawal of profit-related pay schemes currently enjoyed

by 3.7 million people Mr Major said: "Our challenge to Britain's largest businesses is that, by the turn of the century, more than half of their employees should own shares or options in those companies.

"Already around two million people own a share in the company they work for through employee share schemes. My aim is a massive expansion in those numbers. It's a way of building a people's share in the country's future as our economy PLOWS."

He added: "Many companies would like to give employees free shares when the employee invests money of his or her own. But Inland Revenue rules are too restrictive at the moment.

rules to help more companies

Gavin Lumsden

reports on the Government's

scheme to extend

share ownership among workers

to top up their employees' investment in shares with free shares from the company. I see no reason why this should not develop into a normal part of an employment package. "And we are consulting with

industry and trade bodies over ways to make existing schemes even - more attractive." A Treasury spokesman said

the Government was particularly keen to relax the buy-one-get-one-free rules which only allow companies to give one share to each share bought by an employee. Although I.200 approved

all-employee profit-sharing schemes have been set up since 1978, they have begun to fall into disuse as companies have run out of equity to distribute. The Government wants

companies to be able to offer one free share for every three or five that an employee may buy. Employees in these schemes currently enjoy income tax exemption if they

dilutes the value of the existing

Stuart Valentine, head of research at ProShare, the pressure group which has worked closely with the Treasury, said: "We would rather that schemes be operated on a less generous basis than not be operated at all."

The Treasury also said it wants to broaden the appeal of savings-related (SAYE) shareoption schemes. There are currently 1,500 schemes in operation, enabling employees to save between £5 and £250 a month in order to buy shares in their company at a prearranged time and price.

The Treasury spokesman said: 'We don't want to be over-generous but we do want people to participate. Companies also want their employees to take a stake in the business, but they want to see a real sign of financial commitment from them first. We are looking at ways in which companies can vary the conditions they ask their employees to fulfil before they can enter

The Treasury also raised the prospect of extending tax reliefs to unapproved schemes when it said it was exploring ways in which the two types might operate in tandem. Accountants welcomed the move for redressing the balance. In November the Government brought unapproved schemes into pay as you earn (PAYE), leaving some employees with

Companies to be allowed to run personal pension plans

personal pensions in the same way as wider ownership have encountered studied indifference from the

pensions industry. Mr Major said that the Government would allow people joining a company pension scheme to run their existing personal pension alongside by transferring it to a free-standing additional vol-

untary contribution (FSAVC). "At the moment, a selfemployed person with a pension scheme cannot go on contributing to that scheme if he joins a company. That is an unfair restriction. We plan to change the rules to allow people to take their pension with them and invest it along-

side the company pension. "Many business ply not big enough to run a company pension scheme and running individual personal pensions for their employees may cost too much in administrative charges. So we are going to relax the rules to allow companies to set up personal pension schemes for groups of employees. Everyone will have their own percheaper for them all." Although he gave no details.

experts presume Mr Major means to allow companies to report employees' earnings direct to the Inland Revenue. The Prime Minister's third

proposal was to allow people to take up their AVCs at any time between 50 and 75. Daniel Godfrey, of Fleming Investment Trust Manage-

ment, said: "With over 45 per cent of the population facing financial hardship — that is, retirement on less than £7,200. then allowing people to take up pension plans are not actions on the scale required." Joanne Hindle, head of pen-

Life, said she would be disappointed if the Conservative election manifesto did not contain more wholesale reforms.

Stewart Ritchie, head of product development at Scottish Equitable, said the reforms were incremental. "The jackpot we are waiting for is for the Government to decouple the 17.5 per cent earnings cap on pensions contributions."

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A far from amicable arrangement

Cottish Amicable is said to have been shocked by the "ungrateful" response to its demutualisation proposals. This reaction shows why the company should page shows why the company should pass into the control of Abbey National or another bidder. For if Scottish Amicable directors fail to see why anyone should object to a deal offering generous incentives for executives and meagre payouts to policyholders, then they are unsuited to their role as custodians of investors' cash.

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The Amicable Men obviously believed that the complexity of the plan would ensure that it won policyholders' unquestioning approval. Seemingly they did not realise that investors have learnt to smell a rat when faced with insurance company obfuscation. The directors had hoped that policyholders would rejoice in an average bonus of £70 today, with the



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH Personal Finance Editor

unsubstantiated promise of more in the next century. Instead policyholders have rebelled at the idea of giving away their ownership of the business for scant reward.

Their resistance to the deal has been aggravated by their disappoint-ment at the recent unsatisfactory investment performance of Scottish Amicable. Some have questioned why the same set of executives who produced poor results in the past

should be now be in line for a million pounds apiece for not much extra

In their attempt to portray the scheme as a windfall giveaway. Scottish Amicable flourished figures showing that first bonus payouts for 25-year policies maturing this year could be as high as £1,500. Those who value policies for resale in the secondhand market, however, quickly spied that these examples were misleading. They were based on a basic sum assured of £30,000, six times the average for a policy taken out in 1972 when a typical mortgage was £5,000. Equally unconvincing were re-

marks made yesterday by a Scottish Amicable executive implying that, if Abbey National emerged victorious, then homebuyers might need to be concerned that their policies would not repay their loans. Perhaps he intended to alarm policyholders. But he succeeded only in drawing further attention to the less than dazzling investment management skills of his own team.

In the coming weeks, Scottish Amicable policyholders will be called upon to decide between cash and shares now or jam of an uncertain quality tomorrow. Like Harry Enfield's Self Righteous Brothers, they should say a defeaning "No" to the Amicable Men. MURRAY INVESTMENT TRUST PEP

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Sara McConnell on why some illnesses are treated differently

Annuities check out health

Britain's three million asthma sufferers are among those being targeted by a life company offering better annuity rates to those with certain named diseases and conditions.

Sufferers from cancer. strokes, heart attacks, kidney failure, multiple sclerosis and all types of diabetes will also be offered rates about 5 per cent better than standard by Stalwart Assurance of Dorking. This is the first time asthma and multiple sclerosis sufferers have qualified for

Stalwart, which already offers better rates to smokers than non-smokers, calculates shorter time on special annu-ities because people who quali-fy will statistically die earlier. Insurers have to make a bet on how long people will live and consequently how long they will have to pay out, so pay the best rates to those with

the shortest life expectancy.

Annuities pay people a guaranteed income for life in return for a lump sum, normally from a pension fund at retirement. Under current pension rules, holders of personal pensions have to buy an annuity with three quarters of their pension fund.

Annuities are big business and the market is worth £4 billion a year. According to that it will have to pay out for a Annuity Direct, the indepen-

dent annuity adviser, at least 5,000 people a week are looking for the best annuity rates. Mike Fuller, Stalwart's managing director says: "Tra-

ditional life companies conveniently ignore the fact that these people are likely to enjoy a shorter retirement than their healthier counterparts and we believe that because of this they should be entitled to a better income in retirement." But, according to the National Asthma Campaign,

asthmatics at least are less likely to die of the condition than they were at the beginning of the decade. The number of people dying of asthma has been dropping steadily throughout the 1990s. The campaign said that better training and better understanding in future will cut the number of deaths further.

Applicants for the special annuity rates will have to fill in a questionnaire that allocates "scores" to different conditions. The worse the condition or combination of conditions, the higher the score and the better the rate. There are no medical checks.

Billy Burrows, of Annuity Direct, said: "Anything that improves rates is welcome, but Stalwart is doing this as a marketing campaign. It is providing higher rates to people who wouldn't qualify for impaired life annuities." Mr Burrows stresses that

in that no individual medical underwriting is carried out. The special rate is calculated with reference to the life expectancy of the whole group

Annuity rates, page 42

tion should apply for an impaired life annuity from a

specialist provider such as the

Pension Annuity Friendly So-

Mr Burrows said: "Im-

paired life annuities rely on

medical underwriting, ie. a

doctor's report and an under-

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an individual's life expectancy.

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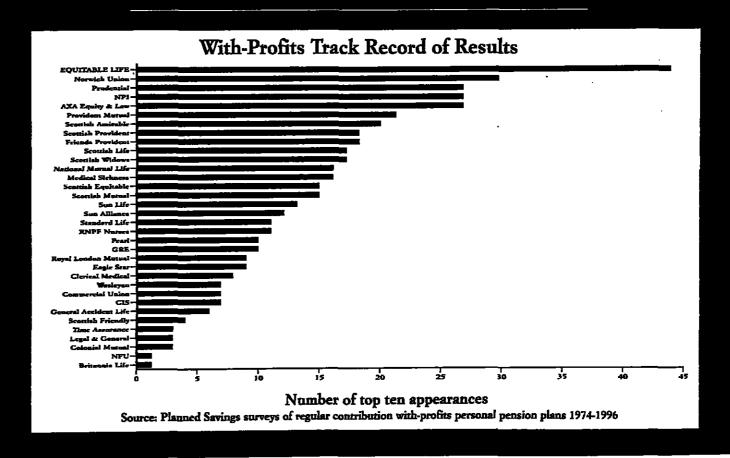
could get a better rate.



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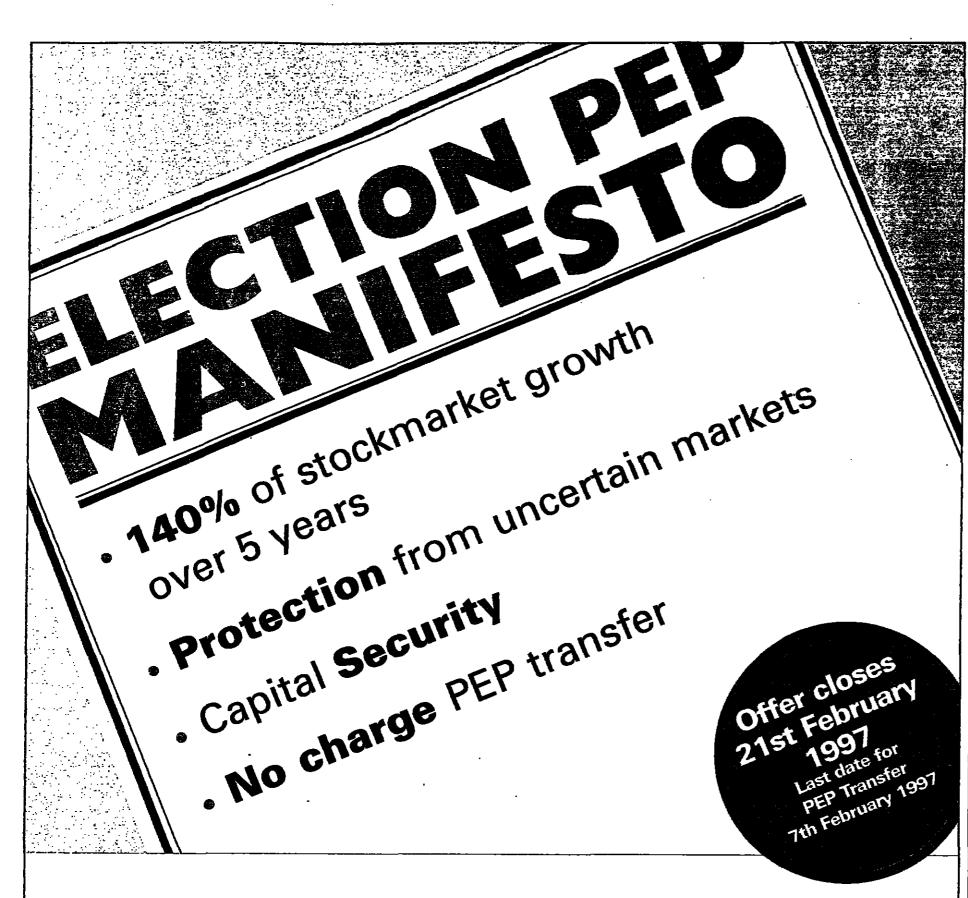
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Management



Albanians protest after pyramid schemes collapsed

How to spot a suspect pyramid

Adam Jones assesses new

regulations from the DTI

rules come into force to control pyramid selling schemes. In their worst form, pyramid schemes in the UK are clumsy vehicles for fraud. The credulous are asked to pay a membership fee of several thousand pounds on the understanding they will get a slice of subsequent payments from new members they are encouraged to introduce. The fraudsters make off with the money.

In a marginally less awful variation, the people running the scheme stick to their word. The money does pass down through the pyramid, with new recruits making some of the previous initiates wealthy. But when the supply of new members dries up, or when the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) shuts it down, the thing collapses. The fools who joined last, and there can be thousands get nothing.

be thousands, get nothing.

The new legislation gives the DTI greater powers to shut down any get-rich-quick operation in which rewards are promised only if new members are recruited. Persuading someone to join such a scheme will become a criminal offence punishable by a two-year prison sentence and/or a £5,000

The timing of the crackdown is apposite. Albania has been gripped by civil unrest after pyramid savings schemes collapsed. These were based on a similar principle to the notorious money circulation schemes seen in the UK, with ridiculously high rates of interest that could be paid only if new money kept flowing in.

if new money kept flowing in.
Romania, too, is still trying to sort out a mess caused by the crash of a pyramid savings scheme that attracted £300 million. The boss, given an 18-month sentence, is awaiting trial on further charges of fraud.

Britain has had nothing of this size. Yet it does have legitimate trading schemes that employ pyramid selling techniques.

that employ pyramid selling techniques.

The schemes may be called network marketing, multilevel franchising or direct selling.

They can include firms where a franchise-holder supplies commission-based sales staff. Other sales operations could have legitimate incentives for recruiting new members.

The DTI has produced a booklet on how to tell a scam from a legal company. The litmus test of a legitimate trading scheme is: does it actually involve the selling of a real product? If it does not, then it is likely to be an outlawed money-circulation scam.

OTHER AREAS TO WATCH

ADVERTS: Promotional material given to you must include the promoter's name and address, the products or services covered and this warning: "It is illegal for a promoter or participant in a trading scheme to persuade anyone to make a payment by promising benefits from getting other people to join a trading scheme. Do not be misled by claims that high earnings can be easily achieved." CONTRACTS: The promoter cannot accept money before a contract has been signed. The document itself must include details such as addresses, product details a description of your role in the scheme, your rights

and any payments that must be made in the first year. A trading scheme cannot bill you for more than £200 in total in the first seven days after you have signed. You have the right to cancel the contract in the first 14 days. Subsequently, you can give 14 days' written notice. An address to which goods are returned must also be contained in the contract. ■ The DTI booklet can be obtained by telephoning 017i 215 0344. ■ Suspected illegal trading schemes should be reported to Consumer Affairs and Policy Directorate 2, The Department of Trade and Industry, l Victoria Street, SWIH ÕET.



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Gavin Lumsden inspects today's new offering from M&G

Sophisticated splits

nvestment trust analysts fear they have found an Achilles' heel in M&G's new High Income trust, whose offer period opens today. The new fund is a split capital trust, a dauntingly complex structure which issues several classes of shares, and has been frequently blighted by poor perfor-mance and investor disinterest

To stimulate investor demand M&G has pulled out all the stops: 6.3 per cent annual income, no initial or exit fees and just a 1 per cent annual management charge. It is also offering shareholders in its Second Dual investment trust, which comes to the end of its life next year, a 3 per cent bonus if they roll over their investment into the new fund.

However, analysts believe the group could be storing trouble for itself in the future with a promise of a high yield of 9.5 per cent for zero dividend preference shareholders.

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They fear a potential repeat of the Exmoor Dual investment trust, which has run aground on a combination of poor performance, conflicting shareholder interests and badly drawn up articles of association. The problem with split caps is their sheer complexity. Originating in the zany 1960s the first split caps attempted to please two sets of investors at

Income shareholders received all the income from the trust during its life, while



The splits may be easy for Darcey Bussell, the ballerina, but investment trust fans should tread with care

capital shareholders received all the capital growth. Since then, product providers have increased the sophistication of splits and added new share classes with weird and wonderful names such as zero dividend preference shares, stepped preference shares and income and residual capital shares.

Zero dividend preference shares, otherwise known as zeros, get their name because they receive no income in the

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form of dividends but instead get a predetermined capital return. They stand in the front of the queue for assets at a trust's winding-up.

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of income. Then come the income shares. These offer some of the highest yields in the stock market. Income shares get all the income, minus any going to the stepped preference shares, and some capital. The final two classes of shares in a split cap have no predetermined value and have to feed off the scraps from the other shares' table.

Income and residual capital shares receive a high and rising income and all the surplus assets at wind-up. Their potential for high dividends and capital returns is dependent on the success of the fund manager which makes them a higher risk investment. Finally, there are the capital shares, which take up any remaining capital return. Thankfully, M&G High Income is offering just three shares: zeros, income and capital shares. The zeros will be launched at 20p and are intended to pay back 122.8p in 20 years' time. This is equivalent to a very generous 9.5 per cent annual return. Income shareholders will receive quarterly dividends and a capital repayment of 70p per share in 2017. Capital shareholders have to

than 4.19 per cent a year for them to enjoy some growth.
To simplify matters M&G is also offering combinations

hope the trust grows at more

SERIOUS PLYSIONS INFORMATION

of the shares in units which can be sheltered in its Pep. The "package unit" is intended to replicate an ordinary share of a conventional investment trust and will comprise one income, one zero and one capital share. Priced at 100p these units are intended to yield an annual income of 5.3 per cent inside a Pep.

For investors willing to take more risk to get a higher income there is the "income and growth unit". This consists of income and growth shares only. Priced at 80p it is aimed to yield 6.3 per cent within a Pep. The risk is that the trust has to achieve over 5 per cent annual compound

growth over 20 years to pay back investors all their capi tal. M&G is confident that it can do this, pointing to a recovery in high-yielding stocks and the fact that its similarly managed Dividend Fund has returned £7,639 of income on a £1,000 investment since 1964.

owever, analysts are concerned that the company may have over-egged the pudding, particularly in respect of the 9.5 per cent-yielding zero divi-dend preference share. Most zeros yield 8-8.5 per cent and the fear is that the High Income trust will face a growing liability as it ap-proaches 2017. This could lead it to experience similar growth is not sufficient over its 20-year life

The problem with split caps is that they generate potential conflicts of interest between shareholders. The more zero holders get, the less for everybody else. The suspicion is M&G has had to produce an attractive zero to support the income and growth units, which do not include this share.

M&G is not helped either by the fact that other split caps, including its own Equi-ty Capital fund, are offering artificially high yields, boost-ed by their discounts. If you wish to exploit the potential of split caps why not take one that is already in the market?

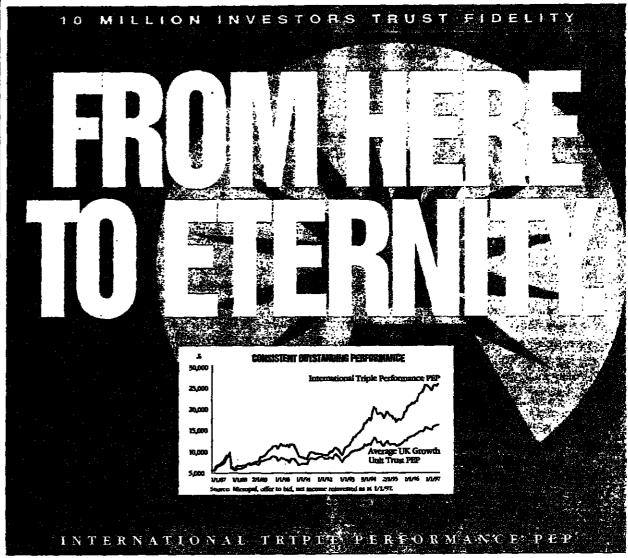
Despite their difficulties split cap shares can be useful in long-term financial planning such as arranging for school fees, but use of them always requires financial advice from an independent expert. Contact the Association of Investment Trust Companies, which publishes a factsheet and monthly data. on 0171 588 5347.

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Waiting for F&C to regain its sparkle



IN THE first of a new series putting the focus on unit and nvestment trusts with large numbers of small investors, Caroline Merrell examines the performance of the £1.9 billion Foreign & Colonial investment trust, perhaps the best known in its sector. The trust's chair-man and chief investment manager, the man responsible for selecting the investments, is Michael Hart, who has been with the company for 40 years. His retirement this year leaves a question mark over F&C's

The 130,000 investors in the huge Foreign & Colonial trust - regis-tered in 1879 when William Ewart Gladstone was plan-ning his second term at 10 Downing Street - are beginning to feel dismayed. Over the past 12 months, the share price has fallen by 6.3 per cent. This is in spite of record levels in the British and American stock markets, where almost two thirds of the trust is invested.

Although the net asset value of the trust, reflecting the value of the underlying holdings, has risen by about 5.1 per cent, the fund is now standing at a 14 per cent discount to assets. This means that anyone selling their shares would receive far less than their true value. The trust has also significantly underperformed the

Mr Hart, Foreign & Colonial's chairman, conceded that the performance was "dismal". But he claimed that the fall in the share price was only a short-term prob-lem and said that the UK's biggest investment trust would regain some of its sparkle. Fortunately most investment trust analysts agreed with him.

Mr Hart attributed the ent factors. Things went awry for the trust's UK holdings — 44 per cent of the fund is invested in UK com-



panies. Mr Hart chose companies that were deemed to pay high yields. Unfortunately, these were not the best-performing companies last year. He also claimed that the

strength of sterling cut returns. The trust is more than 50 per cent exposed to overseas markets - 21 per cent is invested in stocks in the US. Wall Street rose by 25 per cent last year, but the pound's strength drove down these returns to about 15 per cent. Mr Hart said: "In the past, the threat of a Labour government has weakened sterling, not strengthened it."

Japan also proved to be troublesome for the trust -10 per cent of the fund is held in the shares of Japanese had fallen almost continuously since 1989.

The higher growth companies outperformed. The

trust also had a little exposure to the South African market, where returns were hit by the strong pound and the devaluation of the rand. However, the investors, a

mixture of small shareholders and institutions, have the comfort that they have enjoyed good returns over the past few years. The share price of the £1.9 billion trust over the past five

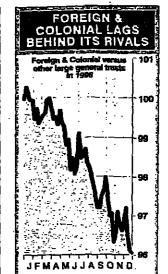
years has increased by 75 per cent, while an index of the 30

top companies would have increased 48 per cent. ver the past ten years, the share price of the trust has risen by about 175 per cent. The index,

£1,000 in to the trust five years ago would now have £1.891. The same amount

invested ten years ago would

meanwhile, has risen 114 per



now be worth £3,206. This amount invested in an average investment trust one year ago would be worth £1,094;

five years ago it would be worth £2,184. Mr Hart said that the share price fall was caused by institutions selling their holdings. Uncertainty about the investment trust's direction after Mr Hart's retirement knocked confidence. A change in the structure of the Hypo Foreign & Colonial Management, which was 50 per cent owned by the investment trust and 50 per cent owned by Hypo Bank, could have caused some selling of the trust's shares. Hypo Bank now owns 65 per cent of the company and the trust own 35 per cent.

This dip in performance will leave Mr Hart's successor with a tough job.

John Szymanowsky, the investment trust analyst at Warburgs, said: "Obviously Michael Hart is closely associated with the company. However, it does have a depth of management. There is a collegiate system. He would not have made investment decisions on his own."

Among those most tipped to take over is Jeremy Tigue, a director with the company. If he does get the main job. pretty much as they have done in the past. Mr Hart said: "Any successor may want to make his mark."

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Halifax members in Holland must get their skates on to register an address in the UK

Do not lose your society bonus

closing your account) and you can forget any bonus payout from your building society when it becomes a bank.

All the big three converters, the Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester, made it clear this week that any saver leaving the fold before flotation day can kiss goodbye to bonuses averaging £1,200.

Equally, any borrowers paying off their mortgage before the vital date can count themselves out of the running for free shares worth between £850 and £900.

Savers, in particular, have had an exhausting time making sure they stick to the plethora of qualifying dates and rules imposed by societies in their impenetrable transfer documents. But even if they have stuck rigidly to all the dates and topped up their balances when told, they must now hold on until flotation day to make sure of the shares.

There is nothing to stop a member withdrawing cash as soon as the last qualifying date has passed. But you

must not close your account. Only members can claim shares. To remain a member of the society you must have at least £1 in your account on



vesting day, as ilotation day is technically known. But naturally things are not even has a minimum balance re-

quirement, you must not fall below this. In theory, societwhich would instantly deprive you of your member-

ship, and thus your shares.
The Woolwich showed its human side by saying this week that it would not exercise its right to close accounts. Instead, it would simply start paying a lower rate of

But the Alliance & Leicester and the Halifax have all given warning that that they do reserve the right.

The Halifax is set to float in June. Its special general meeting (SGM) is on February 24. This is also the second of the two qualifying dates for receiving a higher payout if you have more than £1,000 in your account To get the basic payout, you have to have at least £100 in your account on November 25, 1994, and flotation day.

The Woolwich is expected to float in July, with an SGM on February 11, 1997. Basic payouts of 450 shares will go to members with

December 31, 1995, and December 31, 1996. Savers with more than £1,000 in their accounts on December 31, 1995, and February 11 will get an extra payout.

The Alliance & Leicester will become a bank in April, unless its plans are put onhold because of the general election. The SGM was in December. Qualifying dates were December 31, 1995, and October 14, 1996. All members will get a flat rate 250 shares.

Overseas it's the address that counts

verseas members of the Halifax are mystified by the apparently arbitrary choice of permitted territories" where members

will qualify for a payout. Elaine Halsall, a Weekend Money reader who is working in Holland, was amazed to discover that Dutch residents were excluded from the bonus bonanza, while others living in places as diverse as the United Arab Emirates and Singapore do qualify. Her attempts to clarify the situation were met with a non-committal and

question, the Halifax argued that Holland had onerous local laws regulating shares and it was not worth comply-ing to pay out a small number of members. But it said Ms Halsall and anyone else in her situation could put themselves in line for payouts by chang-ing to a UK address on their passbooks before the society floats. The Halifax did not see fit to say this to Ms Halsall when she asked it the question

directly. solution is not on the cards for the Halifax's 20,000 customers in the Isle of Man and Jersev After an amendment to Inland Revenue rules in 1990, building societies changed the status of their Channel Islands branches to subsidiaries taking deposits. This immediately deprived customers of mem bership and thus of payouts.

Weekend Money reader Herbert Campbell, who became a member of the Leeds in 1988, says members were given no notice or explanation of this. He says: "The Leeds was the first building society on the Isle of Man and it opened with a great flourish. Now we are all disenfranchised."

The Halifax, which bought the Leeds in 1994, says its Isle of Man branches have to be set up as subsidiaries because the island's tax rules allow interest gross. The argument seems to be that savers already benefit from gross income so should not also be allowed to claim

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Hong Kong investors face a bumpy ride

und managers predict that thousands of investors with millions of pounds of money held in Hong Kong are in for a bumpy ride over the next few years, after the change of Hong Kong from British sovereignty to Chinese rule. Investors, however, have little to complain about. They have enjoyed some spectacular

returns in recent years. Investments in some of the better funds have grown more than 300 per cent over the past five years. Company profits in the Hong Kong market have been generated by soaring property prices, corporate activity in banks and investment houses and by commercial activity in the emerging market of China. With 150 days to go before Hong Kong is finally handed back to the Chinese after 100 years of British rule. UK investors must be wondering what they should do with

HSBC Asset Management, part of the Hongkong & Shang-hai Banking Corporation, has at least £10 billion invested in Hong Kong. Surprisingly, HSBC has increased its investments in Hong Kong in recent

Stella Yiu, HSBC director. said: "The business community is generally optimistic about the future. They have confidence in the new government executive and the Civil Service, and Chris Patten's successor. Tung Chee-hwa. On the political front, businesses feel assured that there will be a good environment to build on. There will be significant momentum in the marketplace. The economic case is now well accepted."

She said that the property market, the most important sector, was still showing healthy returns. In spite of the view that many will flee Hong Kong after July 1, she feels property prices will continue to rise.

However, one of the biggest

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Caroline Merrell considers what might happen after the handover



Hong Kong parades its cosmopolitan face in fashion week

fears about the incoming regime is that the level of corruption is almost bound to increase. In China, paying backhanders to officials is a way of life. Some fund managers believe this practice will

handover. Seok Teoh, a fund manager with Gartmore, which has £233 million in Hong Kong, said

spread to Hong Kong after

British seem optimistic about the future both in the long and the short term." The key to Hong Kong's future will be economic growth

about the longer term. The

in China and stability in Hong Kong, she says.

Social strife created by poverty in China would be extremely detrimental for Hong Kong. Sir Alan Donald, former adviser to a previous Governor of Hong Kong, said: For economic reasons, China wants to continue to use Hong Kong as a provider of direct and indirect mmercial investment."

e added: "Politically, it is just as vital for China to make a smooth transfer of sovereignty in Hong Kong for the sake of the longer-term strategy for Taiwan. China clearly understands the serious harm which would befall its economic develogment and its desire to reach an accommodation with Taiwan if what is now a unique thriving cosmopolitan centre of capitalism were to be turned into a rubbish heap."

Miss Teoh said: "Perhaps

more importantly, the end of the old era will mark the beginning of a new era, which will be psychologically important for the whole of Asia. bringing to an end the humiliation endured in the early part of the century."

In economic terms, the biggest single factor affecting the Hong Kong index is the property market. Most of the biggest quoted companies on the Hang Seng index are property. The biggest financial companies in Hong Kong can also attribute their performance to property. as much of their increase in profits is on the back of an

increase in lending. Miss Teoh said: "A change in interest rates in the US could

Indices aid for investors

certain to increase after July,

but added: "Everybody is play-

ing the pragmatist on this

point. The nature of this cor-

ruption will be important to the

success or otherwise of Hong

Kong." On the future, she said:

*Opinion is divided about what

the effect will be after the

handover. The Americans

seem to be quite pessimistic

about the immediate future.

ext month sees the launch of three new indices that should help private investors to get the upper hand when discussing the performance of their portfolios with the stockbro-

kers who manage them. return they should be expecting. Many private-client stockbrokers have claimed each

comparison impossible.

Now FISE International, the index compiler, and the Association of Private Client and Investment Managers (Apcims) have produced three performance yardsticks for income, growth and balanced funds denominated in sterling. The indices will measure capital and total returns and

will be published in the nat-

portfolio is unique, making ional press, including the Financial Times, and the

> Geoffrey Turner of Apcims says the indices, which are based on the average asset allocation of 19 stockbrokers. are primarily aimed at cautious investors but will be useful for those taking a higher risk as well.

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Sara McConnell finds the door closing on errant borrowers

Lenders get tough with new debt code

nalled their renewed determination to get tough with borrowers who think they can walk away from their mortgage debts and not be chased for the money

During the housing slump, thousands of borrowers in trouble with mortgage repay-ments either had their homes repossessed or handed their keys back to lenders in desperation as the value of their properties plunged and interest rates soared. More recently a number of companies have been making money by wrongly advising borrowers with negative equity that they could hand back their keys and not be pursued for their debts. According to the latest repossession figures from the Council of Mortgage Lenders published this week, more than a quarter of the 18,460 homes repossessed in the second half of last year were so called "voluntary re-

Lenders have been slow to act against borrowers in debt, partly because they knew many did not have the money to pay. But they were also taken by surprise by the scale of the housing meltdown.

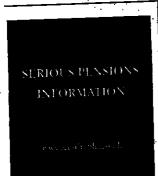
Now the Council of Mort-

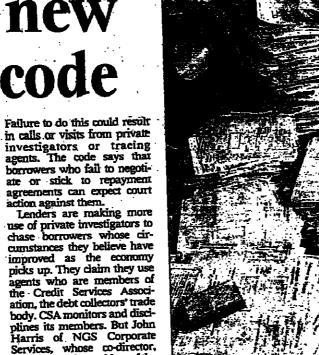
gage Lenders has issued a three-point code that spells out for the first time borrowers' liability to pay any shortfall still owing on the mortgage if their home is repossessed or sold. Lenders have up to 12 years to pursue errant borrowers through the courts. They have even longer to recover the money directly by tracking down borrowers, who are expected to keep their lender up to date with changes of address and circumstances.

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THE RESIDENCE





Debts may pile up but lenders are taking firmer action

Why bankrupts may have to give up their pensions

Bankrupts who have been discharged in the nast ten was past ten years may be forced to forfeit their pensions to repay remaining debts.

Nick Brown, is president of the

CSA, said: The building socienes have really got with it

over the last five years. Before they had never had the prob-

lem of negative equity and

people were dropping their

keys back and not leaving any

forwarding address. And soci-

eties went out into the industry

and recruited all these shady

private detectives. They were

Those who have been released from their two to threeyear period of bankruptcy had good reason to believe that their pensions would be safe from the trustee in bankruptcy, the official who deals with a bankrupt's affairs.

Now former bankrupts who are already drawing their persions may be forced to hand them over to their creditors. There have been 185,000 bankruptcies since 1986.

The development follows a High Court case in December 1996. As The Times revealed, the Landau judgment made it clear for the first time that personal pensions could be seized by the trustee in bankruptcy. It has now emerged that anyone who has been discharged without clearing their debts since the Insolven-

pelled to give up their pension. Members of company pension schemes, however, will be protected as the Pensions Act 1996 prevents company pensions from passing into the control of the trustee in bankruptcy. lan Greenstreet, pensions

specialist at Simmons & Simmons, a City legal firm, said that the Landau ruling would affect those who had personal pensions when they succumbed to their debts and chose to go bankrupt. He added: "The trustee in

hankruptcy is under a legal recovery for the bankrupt's creditors. Often these creditors are small businessmen themselves who, at best, will only recover a few pence of every El of debt they were owed. The pension may be the only significant asset left." Ted Wacey, head of the bankruptcy department at

Landau case will make it considerably easier to obtain both the lump sum paid on retirement under a personal pension and any future pension payments."

The Government has de-

iended its decision to treat company schemes more favourably on the ground that those with personal pensions are entitled to contribute a higher percentage of their earnings. However, it seems unlikely that any small businessman facing bankruptcy would be able to show sufficient profits to pay large amounts into a personal

The Association of British Insurers, the trade body that represents personal pension companies, has contacted the Department of Social Security, arguing for equal treat-ment of company and personal persions.

ANNE ASHWORTH



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Instant Saver Halifax	2.45%	2.45%	2.95%	2.95%	3.25%	3.25%	3,50%	3.50%
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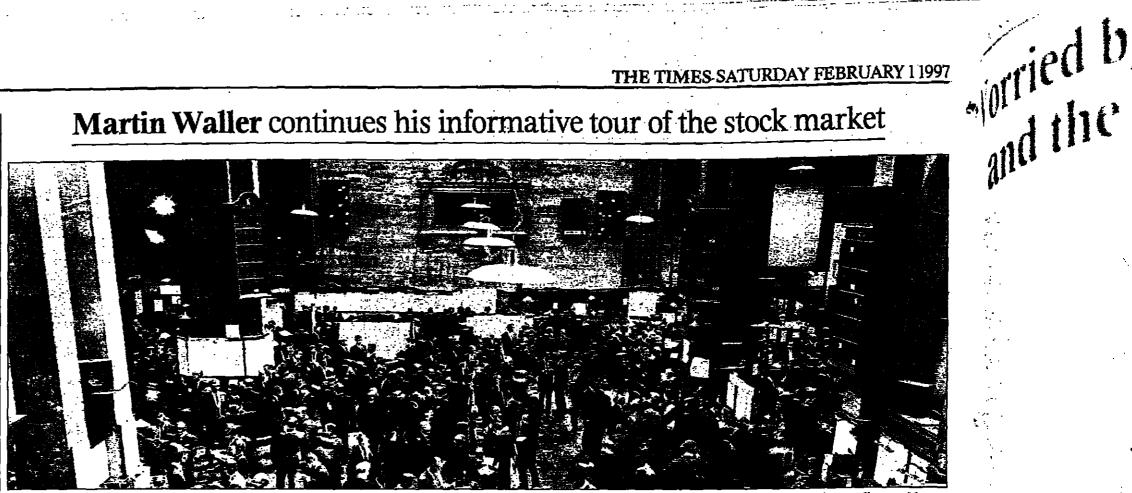
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Martin Waller continues his informative tour of the stock market



A share of the action at a price

tock market players. even those who do so in a limited way by owning two or three privatisation stocks, are always concerned to track the value of their investments. Many turn to the stock market pages every day to monitor their share prices. This is not strictly necessary big name stocks do not move around much, even if the disastrous falls of the likes of British Gas over the past year might not inspire confidence. Checking prices is a pleasant ritual, all the same.

The City has an electronic network of screens that notify dealers of second-by-second moves in the value of investments. Share price tables, as

from a

market leader

choice

published daily in most newspapers, are not quite so up to date. But they can be informa-tive, over and above giving the price at 4.30pm the previous day, when the stock market officially closes.

In The Times every day you will learn of the highest and lowest point each share has reached over the previous year, plus a couple of key performance indicators, the price/earnings ratio and the dividend yield. In addition, our Monday pages tell you what the price did over the previous week, and give the market capitalisation - the total value of all the shares added up, and so the price the City puts on the whole com-

By the end of this year, millions will have become private investors for the first time through the conversion of financial institutions into quoted companies. Last week, we looked at divi-dends and the calendar. In the second of a five-part series on the stock market. we consider the mechanics of share ownership.

pany. No paper can quote the price of every share - there are simply too many. But The Times is unique in that, every Monday, it publishes a table of shares on the Alternative Investment Market, the junior

BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO THE STOCK MARKET

market for companies with a less developed track record. Two points about those share prices. A reader rang me seeking guidance some years ago. In the course of our

conversation it became obvi-

ous that he thought the City and the financial press made up the prices between them, based on their views of the companies at any given time!

They in fact come from the Stock Exchange and represent

recent deals between City in-vestors and the prices at which those deals are struck. Secondly, the single figure given is an average of the

buying and selling prices, the difference between which is the spread. Say your share is priced at £4. If you are buying, the stockbroker might charge you 405p for each share; if you are selling, he offers you 395p. The difference is his profit.

The size of the spread varies. in big, well-established companies such as the privatisation stocks, it can be quite small, because there is a ready market. Smaller stocks may not be so easy to find buyers for, so the spread is wider,

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To find out more,

call...

SHARE DEALING MADE EASY FOR THE PRIVATE INVESTOR

As a private investor you are not required to deal through the big City firms; indeed, many do not want your custom. They tend to have minimum limits on the amount of investors' cash they will handle, and you will almost certainly fall well below these.

A not-so-funny City story, possibly apocry-phal, illustrates this. A well-heeled individual is said to have had some £120,000 to invest. He took it to a City firm that specialised in privateclient work and told them to put it into shares of their choosing for him. Through spectacularly bad judgment the broker managed to lose much of the money; within a few months the various investments were worth a total of £90,000 between them. At this stage, the broker

sold them and returned a cheque for this sum to the client, explaining that they did not deal with investors with less than £100,000.

You should be able to deal in shares easily and cheaply through your high street bank. Alternatively, there are cheap share-dealing operations that specialise in handling matters for the private shareholder.

They include Sharelink, whose helpline is 0121 200 7788, and the Share Centre in Tring. Hertfordshire, freephone 0800 800008. Alternatively, the Yorkshire Building Society has a scheme called Yorkshare, on 01274 737373, and another building society, the Norwich and Peterborough, owns the Waters Luniss stock-broker, on 01603 622265.

ing a thing of the past. In the stock market's infancy, every document denoting ownership of an investment was written in quill pen and passed on by hand. Ownership of the investment passed with that slip of paper, without question. The opportunities for their, forgery, embezzlement, whatever,

many a rogue. With the coming of the typewriter, matters improved, but it was still ownership of that piece of paper that conveyed

reassurance of a guaranteed

control. The Stock Exchange is currently switching to an entirely paperless electronic system, called Crest, though you can still have share certificates if you prefer. The changeover has not been a happy one, and

there are doubts whether the

Next week we look at the annual general meeting each company is required by law to call, and what you can learn from your report and accounts.

spring deadline for full trantion will be met.

This year's Big Four, the three building societies and the Norwich Union, say that it is too soon to say whether they will be issuing paper certificates to their new armies of shareholders. The betting must be that whatever happens in the City, pieces of paper bestowing ownership of a company will still be issued Crest is far too expensive for the average small investor. The firms listed above will be happy to take your paper.



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Worried by the watchdog and the windfall tax

nother regulatory cold wind blew through the electricity sector last week, exacerbating the litters caused by the prospect of a windfall tax. Stephen Littlechild, Director-General of Electricity Supply, said he was still dissatisfied with the level of competition in electricity generation. Unless wholesale electricity prices continue falling, regulatory intervention is sure to follow. Needless to say, this would be would be bad news for investors in National Power and PowerGen, the two dominant generators.

Since privatisation of electricity in 1990. Professor Littlechild has tried strenuously to loosen the generators' hold over wholesale electricity prices. Given that they owned most of the power stations that set the prices in the electricity pool, they had a virtual licence

As such, Professor Littlechild forced them to sell 6,000 megawatts of generating capacity. Eastern Group, the region-al electricity company owned by Hanson, scooped the lot last year, boosting its generation market share to a potential 14 per cent. As part of the breakup of Hanson, Eastern is merging with Hanson's US coal business, Peabody, to form Energy Group, which is aiming for a stock market listing by the end of next month. National Power and PowerGen, meanwhile, have seen their market share fall from 80 per cent at privatisation to 45 per cent now. Despite this, both companies' share prices have been remarkably resilient, reflecting vigorous cost-cutting, share buybacks and special dividends after their bids for regional electricity companies were blocked by lan Lang, the Trade Secretary.

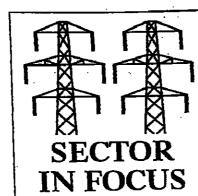
But City analysts are now divided over

Generators face

a big squeeze

on prices, writes

Matthew Wall



the prospects for the companies. Adam Forsyth, electricity analyst at NatWest Markets, believes falling pool prices will deter new entrants to the generation market and this will mean less competi-

tion for the market leaders. Meanwhile, increased demand for electricity, driven partly by the increasing use of computers and air-conditioning systems required to keep them cool. will keep generating capacity growing at

3 per cent a year. Mr Forsyth says: "National Power and PowerGen will get the lion's share of this growth since they have the spare

capacity that they can wheel out when needed." Both companies are also witnessing strong overseas growth, espe-cially in the Far East, where fast-growing economies are particularly thirsty for power. Europe, too, presents significant opportunities after EU moves to introduce competition into the power markets of member states.

Germany, for example, has the highest electricity prices in Europe, leaving plenty of room for UK generators to wade in and undercut the incumbent power companies. But this month PowerGen pulled out of takeover talks with Bewag, the Berlin-based electricity distributor, because shareholders Veba and Ving would retain too much influence for PowerGen's liking.

Nick Pink, electricity analyst at SBC Warburg, is far more bearish, however. He says: "If pool prices fall a further 5 per cent to 10 per cent in real terms over the next few years as predicted, on top of 5 per cent last year, both generators are bound to suffer. And Littlechild is also sure to intervene if he continues to believe there is not enough competition. National Power is overvalued and we recommend selling. We have PowerGen

The third biggest generator, British Energy, formed after the merger between Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear, is particularly prone to falling pool prices. It has no choice but to accept the prevailing price since nuclear power stations have to produce electricity whatever the weather

As its share price has rallied significantly to above 150p since its miserable stock market debut last summer, when it fell to 89p, most analysts recommend taking profits now.



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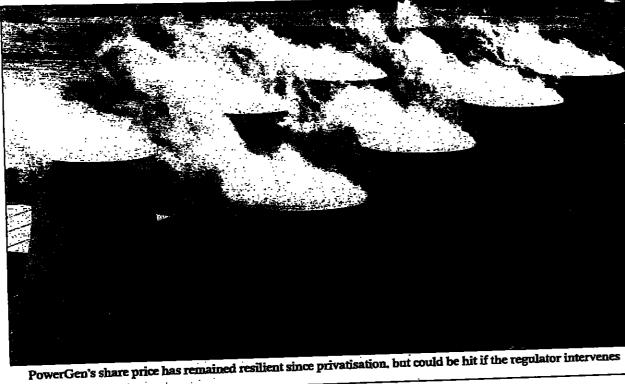
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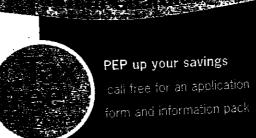
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minimum £1,000 - by 3 April. † Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up.

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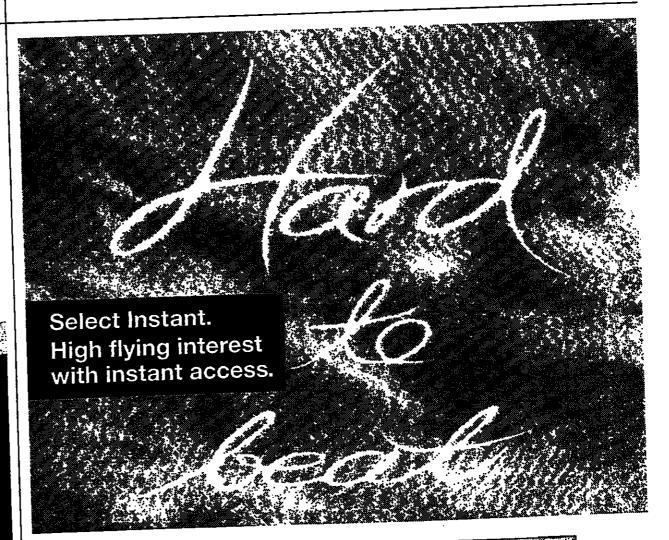


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Retirement advice targets women

AS WOMEN live on average six years longer than men and are likely to spend up to seven years off work on career breaks, a larger pension fund and higher pension contributions are needed to compensate. To heighten awareness of the need for immediate retirement planning by women, Midland Bank is launching a free cassette guide giving financial and pension advice. Call 0800 656565.

Two guides, Management Buyouts for Managers and Selling Unquoted Companies, have been published by Livingstone Guarantee, the corporate financial adviser. The first looks at the ingredients for a successful management buyout and the buying process itself. The second offers advice for anyone considering selling a private business, detailing the entire sale procedure from planning to steering the deal to comple tion. Call 0171-388 4242.

■ Cheshire Building Society today launches a fixed-rate bond. The minimum investment for the bond, which matures on June 30, 1998, is £5,000. Annual interest for investments of less than £25,000 is 6.75 per cent gross

(monthly interest 6.50 per cent) and the interest for investments of £25,000 to a maximum £500,000 is 7 per cent gross (monthly interest 6.75 per cent). Call 0800 243 278.

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■ The Association of Solicitor Investment Managers (ASIM) has published its 1997 Directory of Members providing de-tails of 50 full and associate members. plus guidance on adviser. Call 01892 870065.

A national register of solicitors who are independent financial advisers offering one-stop financial and legal advice can now be accessed. Call Solicitors for Independent Financial Advice: 01372 721172. web site: http://www.sifa.co.uk

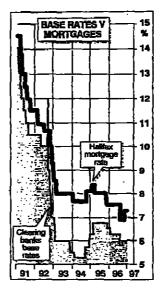
LIZANNE ROSE

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interes pai
Portman BS 01202 292444	Instant Acc	Instant	£100	4.70	Y
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select Inst	Postal	£5,000	6.35	Y
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	insint Postal	Postal	£10,000	6.40	Y
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select Inst	Postal	250,000	6.45	Y
		Notice			Interes
NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	of term	Deposit	Rate	pai
Chelsea BS 0800 132351	POST-tel 20	· 20 day ρ	£5,000	6.05	Y
First National BS 0800 558844	30 Day Notice	30 day p	210,000	6.30	Y
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Select 60	60 day p	£10,000	6.50	Y
Manchester BS 0161 833 8898	Jubilee	75 day	\$25,000	6.75	Y
		Notice			Interes
FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	of term	Deposit	Rate	pai
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Fixed	5 year	£8,575	7.50	F/YI
NatWest Bank 0800 200400	Fixed	5 year	£5,000	7.45	F/Y
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 6260879	Premier	5 year	59,000	7.20	Y
West Bromwich BS 0990 143668		5 year	£3,000	7.00	Y

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Co-operative Bank 0800 109000	Advantage Visa	0.64%NC	7.90%N	Ni
RBS Advanta 0800 077770	Visa	0.79%N	9.90%N	Ni
Capital One Bank 0800 669000	Visa	0,797%N	9.90%N	Ni

Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance no insurance APR PERSONAL LOANS £112.66 £120.02 £102.59 Northern Rock BS 0345 421421 12.90%H Lombard Direct 0800 215000 RBS Direct 0800 121125 £101.20 13.90%A £114.78 £101.45 14.00%

Nb. A = APR dependent on credit rating, C = no interest free period, F = Foxed Rate (all other rates variable), H = Higher rate applies if insurance not arranged, N = Introductory rate for a limited period, P = By Post only. * RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING es: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)



FT-SE 100 PRICE INDEX	- 4300
	4200
	- 4100
	4000
2 d (1927)	3900
	- 3800
	- 3700
	3,00
J FM AM JJ A S O N D J	3600

NATIONAL SAVINGS Ordinary A/c¹ 1,50 1,20 0,90 10-10,000**
Investment A/c⁴a 4,75 3,80 2,85 20-500**
Income Bond⁴a 6,00 4,80 3,601,000-25,000**
First Opt Bonda 6,00 4,80 3,601,000-25,000** 0645 645000 0645 645000 100-10,000 8day 25-1,000 1mth 0645 645000 0645 645000 43rd issue Certt= 5.35 Children's Bond† 6.75 Gen Ext Rate 3.51 0645 8450000 * brist E70 (E1+10 (r) of int tax lines, insti acces for up to £100 * Adolftonal hidgs up to £20,000 for inamested proceeds. "Flant line" "Rates gross und vide «Guaranteed when held for 5 years "0.2% net borus for £20,000 + "100,000 f" in addition to \$1 and \$2 holdings "Taxable but cred in full "£500-100,000 earn higher rates." "Thinked rates 4000):

PENSION ANNUTIES

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)		Age 60	Age 65	advance Age 70
Standard LiLevel Equitab LiLevel PrudentialLevel Statwart *Level Sun LifeLevel		£ 9,776 £ 9,905 £ 9,750 £ 9,730 £ 9,636	£10,844 £10,824 £10,781 £10,781 £10,747	£12,248 £12,027 £12,189 £11,893 £12,249
SINGLE LIFE	Female:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
PrudentialLevel Canada LifeLevel Stalwart *Level Equitable LiLevel Sun Li of CanLevel		£9,092 £8,948 £8,815 £8,971 £8,913	£ 9,846 £9,757 £ 9,717 £ 9,658 £ 9,658	£10,948 £10,943 £10,595 £10,617 £10,751
JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Female:	Age 60 Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Statwart *Level PrudentialLevel Equitable LiLevel Carrada LifeLevel Sun Li of CarrLevel		£8,620 £8,654 £8,660 £8,520 £8,534	29,307 29,245 29,186 29,140 29,113	£10,080 £10,075 £ 9,908 £10,020 £9,936

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

	ANN	JAL INCOME	
	Rates as a	it January 30. 1997	
	Investment (£)	Соптрапу	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	4.00
	5,000	Financial Assur	5.30
	10,000	AIG Life	5.40
	20,000	AIG Life	5.55
	50,000	Financial Assur	5,65
2 Years			
	1 000	Hambro Assured	4.95
	1,000 3,000	ITT London & Edin	4,55 6,20
	3,000	ITT WHOOLI & CUIT	0,20
3 Years			
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.20
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	6,30
4 Years			

Hambro Assured ITT London & Edin

Hambro Assured

5.70

1.000

3.000

1,000

5 Years

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

			70		Minimum
	Gross	Buying	Gross	issue	purchase
FIXED RATE	coupon	price	yield	price	amount
Birmingham Midshire	9.375%	104.06	8.999	100.17	1.000
Bradford & Bindley	11.625%	127.59	9.111	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13,000%	142.29	9,136	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	148.30	9,019	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	141.68	9.176	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	135.41	8.924	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	126.62	9.279	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	100.58	8.699	100.62	50,000
Halitax	12.000%	135.29	8.558	100.28	50,000
Halitax	13.625%	155,32	8.772	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	148.79	8.989	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	120.85	8.878	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	142.05	8.888	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	142.53	8.858	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	143.26	8.987	100.48	1,000
	Gross	Buyi	ng b	SSLIB	Minimum
FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buyi pri		ouice same	Minimum purchase
	conbou		ce l		
FLOATING RATE Cheshire (28/09-27/03) First Nat(20/09-20/03)	coupon)8.41563%	pri	00 10	orice	purchase
Cheshire (28/09-27/03	8.41563% 8.48750% bearing share	111. 101.	00 10	orice D.00	purchase 1,000
Cheshire (28/09-27/03 First Nat(20/09-20/03) PIBS = Permanent Interest	coupon)8.41563% 8.48750% bearing share: Govett — 0171	971 1111 1013 801 0101	00 10 50 10	0.00 0.00	1,000 1,000
Cheshire (28/09-27/03) First Nat(20/09-20/03) PIBS = Permanent interest Source ABN AMRO House	coupon)8.41563% 8.48750% bearing share: Govett — 0171	971 1111 1013 801 0101	00 10 50 10	0.00 0.00	1,000 1,000
Cheshire (28/09-27/03) First Nat(20/09-20/03) PIBS = Permanent interest Source ABN AMRO House	coupon)8.41563% 8.48750% bearing share: Govett — 0171	971 1111 1013 801 0101	00 10 50 10	0.00 0.00	1,000 1,000 1,000
Cheshire (28/09-27/03) First Nat(20/09-20/03) PIBS = Permanent interest Source ABN AMRO House	coupon)8.41563% 8.48750% bearing share: Govett — 0171	971 1111 1013 801 0101	00 10 50 10	0.00 0.00	1,000 1,000 1,000
Cheshire (28/09-27/03) First Nat(20/09-20/03) PIBS = Permanent interest Source ABN AMRO House	coupon)8.41563% 8.48750% bearing share: Govett — 0171	971 1111 1013 801 0101	00 10 50 10	0.00 0.00	1,000 1,000 1,000
Cheshire (28/09-27/03) First Nat(20/09-20/03) PIBS = Permanent interest Source ABN AMRO House	coupon)8.41563% 8.48750% bearing share: Govett — 0171	971 1111 1013 801 0101	00 10 50 10	D.00 D.00 D.00 VARININ	1,000 1,000 1,000

PIBS

Lender	interest rate %	Loan size	.Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Alliance & Leic 0181 742 0471	4.25	to £250k	90	3% discount to 1,1.98
Birm Mid Mort SVS 01344 394000	3,21	£100k+	75	4% disc-31.8.97 2% disc-28.2.99
Nationwide 0800 302010	3.09	to £500k	75	3.90% discount tor 1 year
Banks Bank of Ireland	1,24	£20-145k	95	6.25% disc-6 mth
01734 510100 Midland 0800 494999	3.99	£100k+	80	3% disc-6 months 3% discount for 12 months
्र इस्टर्स्स्	egraper Services	ವರ್ಷ-ತ್ರಾಗಿ	~ (5 143	
%	" LA	RGER I	DAI	IS .
Lender	Interest rate %	Loan	Max %	Notes

LARGER LENDERS

%			7.7	
Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies Scarborough 0800 590547	0.25	£30-100k	95	6.99% disc-6mth 2%-6mth,0.5%-1y
Standard 0191 257 4123	1,49	to £100k	80	6% discount for 12 months
Mansfield 01246 202055	0.64	£75-125k	90	6,35% disc-6mth 2%-6mth,1%-1yr
Banks Bank of treland 01734 510100	1.24	£20-145k	95	6.25%dsc-6 mth 3% dsc-6 mth .
Midland Bank 0800 494999	4.15	£50-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societ	ties			
Bristol & West 0800 119955	3.50	£15k+	95	3.75% discount for 12 months
Newbury 01635 43676	3.99	£15-150k	95	3% discount for 12 months
Lambeth 0171 928 1331	3.99	£15-150k	.95	3.25% discount for 12 months
Banks				
Bnk of Ireland 01734 510100	1.24	£20-145k	95	6.25% disc 6 mths 3% disc 6 mths
TSB Bank 0500 758000	3.51	£15k÷	95	3.74% discount for 12 months



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	Big Ofter	Wally Yie	1	Bid	Offer	Widy	,
AEGON LIFE	ASSURANCE		UK Opportunity	24.40	279 27	- 420	_
Edinburgh Park M.U 330 0191		HIZ OSE	North Amer Opp	355,40	306.10 280.80	• 5.90 • 7.93	:
Balanced L'A Equity	934 10 565.20 713.70 755.30	- 3.90 - 8.70	Far East Opp Gwith Prop Ser (212.40 174.90	224.70 184.10	4.90	:
Property Fixed [nieres]	122.30 H630 344.20 389.70	- 0.40 . - 0.80	Gin Prop Ser 2 Fixed Ini	213.31 23160	225.60 245 10	- 0.50 - 0.40	:
Notes de la constant de la constant La constant de la constant de	27120 25740 42230 44640	- 0.20	Cash Uverseas	171,90 281,40	181.90 297.90	- 0.20 - 5.70	
ABBLY LIFE		_	Formerly LAS Managed Fund	31.50	454,30	• µ10	
Holdenhur⊲ Ro BHSSAL	ad. Bournemon	ib .	(*). Equity Property	744,00 244,30	309,100 01,190	-12.50 - 0.70	
0120C 292373 Cu⊐03jun >-	197.30 207.70	- 0%0	Money Warker Fixed Interest	272,91 336,90	256.70 354.30	- 0.20 - 0.20	
inicialionni 24 Evital 24	170-30 179-30 231-30 231-30	- 140	Japan Forth America	294.50 234.10	310,00 244 60	• 7.20 • 60	•
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Estato Ser 4 Man Net 4	202.40 297.30 407.10 845.40	- 040 - 230	CANADA LIFE 26 High Street	Potters	Bar. He	rts ENG	S
Coas servi Worky Servi	354.50 373.00 354.50 373.00	··.	<i>อเรียง 4</i> 122 Eq:มหู Grawith :	200 AV			
Fried Im Ser I American Ser I	#40 to 421 772 714.20 751 #05	•/L9U	Managed	404.80 204.40	426.20 282.40	- 1.50 - 2.50	•
(fret lactor 4 (adares inv Ser 4	45 30 97151	• (30 ·	Guit & Full Int Equity	274.31 484.10	268,77 513,80	- 0 go - 4 go	
プログラン マジュイ	281 00 295300	• IL30	Cash CUS- Euro Myd	232.00 473 (0	244.30 ##(10	- 000 - 570	
ALBANY LIFE Darkes Lanc	Dullon, Star E.S.	6151	Cufe init Fd Madaged Fond	335.60 44 40	405 41 300 40	- 333	:
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Grd Money Aug 185 Managed Aug	362.40 JNI-30	0.20	imesimeni Ed Interpational	924.30 613.40	590.50 645.90	- 1,51	:
ir i Fulf (mi Acc I spun Fund	577,80 397,31 215.20 ZB-50	- 30T	CITY OF WEST				·
American Acc	453 70 477 60 480,60 906 10	• 5.50	Sentry House, 7 Milion Keynes	O Arch	ury Bive	AONAO I	
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Distributora Bend		- 210	NIA American Far East	337.57 794.90	351.10	- 5 31	:
ANA EQUITY A	LAW LIFE		international	24.00	314,70 201,10 494,20	• 4,00 • 4,70	
Maritan Kesi	t High Wyross	be. Seeks	Ir II Ir cottle European	379 (J)	7460 37250	1.50	•
Reserve 5 7 to Palant Serve	170 87 189.20 884.60 931.01	• Yiu	Japaneve DE Asia	112.20	119.20	- 1 40 - 2.50	
Opportunity seri Distribution seri	20210 21273	- 1.40	With Profits Resi	PALIO	19- 10 198 10	120	
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Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed, Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.										
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AEGON LIFE	Big Offer -/- %	UK Opportunity	Bid 2:H40	Offer 279 स	•4.20	Bristoni & West (2)	Bid (OR 50	Offer	• 12 10	-) -
Edinburgh Park OLV 330 0191	Edinbergh, CHICOSE	Euro Oppurtunity North Amer Opp	201.30 205.40	306.10 280.80	5.00	Equity Mgd St Managed St	294.50 293.20	310.00 308,70	- 510	
Balanced L'A Equity	534 10 565 20 - 3.90 713.70 755 30 - 8.70	Far East Opp Gwth Prop Ser I	212.40 174.90	224.70 184.10	4.90	Adventurous 51 Managed (2)	233.30 197.10	245 to 207.50	1.23 1.30	:
Property Fixed Interest	422.30 446.90 - 0.40 . 364.20 389.70 - 0.80	Gin Prop Ser 2 Fixed tru	213.31	225.50 245 to	- 0.50	Pension Funds Unit With Pits 19	110.20		- 0.20	1
Vinnet International	271.20 287.00 + 0.20 422.00 446.90 + 1.30	Cash Uverseas	171,90 281,40	181.90 297.80	• 0.20 6.49 • 5.70	Secure (2) : Managed (2) :	104.00		- 0.10	1 1
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01202 292373 Çuraoğına 54	197.00 207.70 + 090	Money Warker Fixed Interest	272_91 336_90	296.70 354.30	- 0.20	EAGLE STAR	Loude	a EC3. (H71 929 HIL	
Ernico) 54 Intercational \$4	170-30 179-30 - 110 221-30 231-50 - 140	Japan Sorth America	294.50 236.10 434.90	310,00 249.60	7.20 6.60	FRIENDS PR			• 040 CA	" 9
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Eumpeur 54 Prop Ed Set 4	47240 424 + 210	Far East		162.00	- 200	Mahaged UK Equity	341.30 532.40	414 50 562.00	• 1.50 ·	. [6
Equity Ser 4 Man Ner 4	262-40 297-30 - 0560 407-10 845-40 - 230 154-90 372-60	CANADA LIFE 26 High Street	Poters	Bar. He	rts ENGSBA	Strongeriship Oversess Equity	497 10	91300 277.50	9.10 .	1 8
Com Ser 4 Motes Ser 4 Forel Im Ser 4	75450 773-301 #0-00 42170 - 1 to	Equity Growth :	250 AV 404.80	426.20	- 1.80	North American Podric Basin	316.60 178.70	239 10	400	
American Set 4 Heen Inc Set 4	714.20 751 801 +71.90	Managed Property Gill & Ful Int	24.40	282,N0 268,70	- 2.50	Eutopean Property	324.90	.46.X	- 6.77	.] :
Indeped Inviter 4	251.70 243.90 - 1.40 . 261.00 295.60 - 1.20	Equity Cash	480,10	513.80	- 400	Fland interest Index Linker	275 W)	240.40	0.50	- (;
ALBAN LIFE	p. 60 p. 140 - 144	CLIS- Euro Myd CLISe Inni Fd	473 (0 335.60	##(10) #05'41)	• 570 - 330	Cash FF Ute Assurance	219_81	200	- 3.30	. }
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WEEKEND MONEY LEGIERS

Move to taxation self-assessment may prove to be a reform too far

From Mr L. How Sir, I was surprised to read solicitor Susan Singleton's letter in your issue of January 11, suggesting taxpayers should complete their own tax returns, and trust to the Inland Revenue to calculate the tax. This is by early submission

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not on time", as she implies.
I dealt with the Revenue daily, and calculate that up to half the assessments issued by them are wrong. These are assessments based on accounts or returns submitted. Most mistakes, needless to say, are in the Revenue's

I can also tell, by speaking to the Revenue staff who will be dealing with the returns, that they are largely untrained as yet, as they profess ignorance of the basics

"Self-assessment" involves

Avoid the scramble for Halifax shares

From Mr J. Talbot Sir. Mr S. Lourie, of the Halifax Action Group, writes about the alleged wrongs being done to future Halifax shareholders who wish to sell their shares on the day they are issued (Weekend Money Letters, January 4). He argues members ... should get the benefit of any scramble for shares by the financial institutions". Of course, he means

reform of the very basis of assessment, and not just the forms used. In many cases, there are transitional adjustments to make to arrive at the figures to put on the 1997 tax returns..

I agree the untrained can complete their own returns, but equally, they can do their own conveyancing and draft their own wills. As in taxation, errors may be costly, and may not have their effect for years to come.

My advice is to have a professional involved, for this year at least. I fear a shambles. This may be a reform too

Yours faithfully, LAWRENCE HOW (Ex-tax inspector). 13 Wood Street, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan.

only those who wish to sell. Other members, who wish to add to their shareholdings,

would be among the losers. There seems to be no logic in a procedure that rewards those who do not intend to be long-term shareholders and does nothing for those that do. Far better to avoid an artificial "scramble for shares" and let the proper value be established over a few days. Yours faithfully, JOHN TALBOT, 21 Knollys House, Tavistock Place, WCl.

GGI ALLOWANCES TO THE EMPER 1994

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on accept dismosed of in December 1996

Month purchased	1000 400						
	1982 198	3 1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	· 198
January		9 0.778					
February	- 0.86	ii 0.771	0.679	0.598	0.538	0,489	0.38
March	0,944 0.85						
April	0.905 0.83						
May	0,892 0.82						
June	0,886 0.82	D 0.731	0.618	0.579	0.515	0,448	0,33
July	0,886 0,81	0 0.733	0.621	0.583	0.517	0,447	0,33
August	0.885 0.80	2 0.717	0.617	0.578	0.512	0.431	0,33
September	0,886 0.79	4 0.713	0.618	0.571	0.508	0.424	0.32
October	0.877 0.78	8 0.703	0.615	0.568	0.500	0.410	0.31
November	0.868 0.78	2 0.698	0.610	0.555	0,493	0,404	0.30
December	0.871 0.77	7 0.699	0.608	0.550	0.495	0.400	0.30
	1990 199	1 1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
January	0.292 0.18	6 0.139	0.120	0.093	0,058	0.028	
February	0.285 0.18	0.133	0.112	0.087	0,051	0.023	
March	0.272 0.17	5 0.129	0.108	0.084	0.047	0.019	
April	0.234 0.16	0 0.112	0.098	0.071	0.036	0.012	• •
May	0.223 0.15	7 0.108	0.094	0.067	0,032	0.010	-
June	0.219 0.15	1 0.108	0.095	0.067	0.031	0.009	
July	0.218 0.15	4 0.112	0.097	0.072	0.036	0.013	` -
August	0.205 0.15	0.112	0.093	0.067	0.030	0.008	
September	0.194 0.14	7 0.108	0.088	0.065	0,025	0.004	
October	0.185 0.14	3 D.104	0.089	0.063	0:031	0.004	
November	0.188.0.13	2010	0,090	9 :063,	0.031	0.003	v
December	0.189 0.13	രസ്ത്ര	กักถึง	กลังกั	ስስታ		٠

Putting trust in the insurers



From Mr R. Breckman Sir, You recently pub-lished a letter of mine bemoaning the standards of service given by the insurance companies. where, for example, an assessor did not even bother to inspect property damaged by storm, but still accepted the claim.

Subsequently, I passed the papers to the Insur-ance Ombudsman who has since awarded me £250 compensation. This casts considerable aspersions upon the insurance

Yours faithfully, ROBERT BRECKMAN, Breckman & Company. Chartered Accountants, 49 South Molton Street, companies in that they London W1.

Annuity overhaul is long overdue

From Mr A. Simmonds Sir, Mr R. Ranson of Equita-ble Life gives a fairly reason-able explanation in Weekend Money Letters (January 11) of the investment underlying an annuity, which means that the insurance companies may not make massive profits on annuities, though they certainly would if the cash sum was invested in permanent interest bearing shares (Pibs). The return here, is not far short of the effective yield on an annuity for a male aged 65 around 9 per cent compared with the approximate II per cent on the annuity. This raises the more fundamental question of why the Government requires individuals to buy annuities, possibly depriving our heirs of a large capital sum. If I die my widow gets a pension of two thirds or

even half in some cases and my children will get nothing.

Why do I not have the option

to put my lump sum into gihs

or Pibs, or similar funds? It is certainly understandable why the conversion of the lump sum into an annuity was arguably prescribed, to pre-vent the dissolution of funds, and, with the present trend towards more and more private provision for one's old age, the last thing any government will want is to allow people to fritter away their accumulated pension fund.

refuse consistently to accept

responsibility - and it was only intervention by the

ombudsman that got me

By having an ombuds-

man paid for by the insur-

ance companies, they are

effectively admitting that all is not as it should be in their

business. Can they really be

justice.

·However, it is time this archaic system was overhauled to permit choices on retirement. Those who have large pension fund accumulations should surely be permit-ted to invest at least a portion in equities, even if the majority should go into "safe" places such as gilts, deposits or Pibs. If, when I come to retire, I have a capital sum on which a Pibs return is adequate for me, why should I not be free to opt for that, so that my capital remains intact for my heirs? Yours faithfully, ADRIAN SIMMONDS, 20 Queen Anne's Place, Bush Hill Park,

Enfield, Middlesex.

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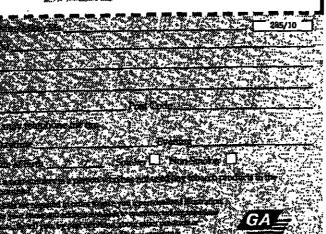
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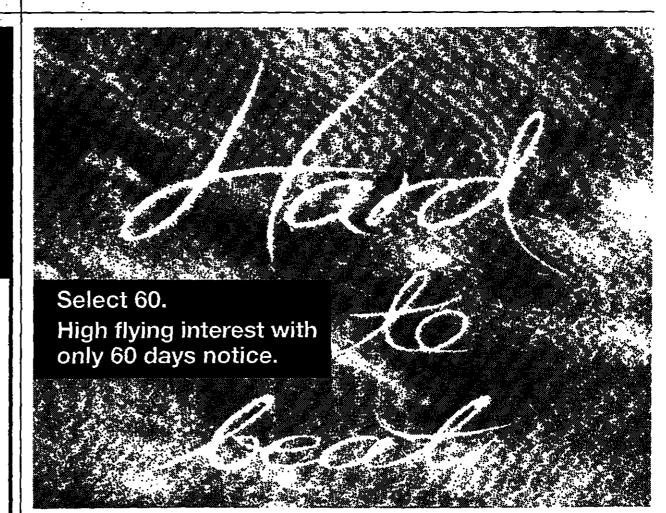
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latest quick exit of Kanchelskis

ROB HUGHES

Weekend View

hamper factory where the deal

was struck could not be im-

proved by fiction. Cecchi Gori

had sent his private jet to Liverpool, his emissaries on board, including Dennis

Roach and Vicenzo Morabito,

an English and an Italian

agent, with instructions to

chairman, expected them by 3pm and planned a flight of

his own, to watch Everton at

Newcastle. He never took off,

the Italian plane touched

down at 4.15pm, the wran-

Gallavoti, a persistent and patient Italian journalist from Gazzetta dello Sport, had sat

outside in his car for the whole

duration. His reward? He saw

Kancheiskis speed away in his

black Porsche, together with

George Scanlan, the former

Dean of Humanities at Liver-

pool Polytechnic, who had

been the interpreter to the

to leave Liverpool at 2am and

arrived back in Florence at

The jet was given clearance

Kanchelskis family.

Giancarlo

gling went on until 11.15pm.

Outside.

Peter Johnson, the Everton

bring Kanchelskis back.

THE manner in which Andrei Kanchelskis slipped, silent in the night, from English to Italian football on Wednesday somehow catches the whole transience of our footballing times. He is a player of whimsical talent, untouchable when he is really flying. accused of malingering when the contest does not suit him. and gone before you can say "come back. Andrei" when the next move beckons. Kanchelskis never needed Bosman or the Treaty of Rome to be his own removal man.

Perhaps we should remember with some joy his English period: better to have seen such breathtaking skills than not at all. Manchester United. daring, to say the least, back in 1991, had paid an initial £650,000 to export him out of the Ukrainian mining belt where Kanchelskis earned 1,000 roubles per month — approximately £10.

They sold him for £5.5 million to Everton 17 months ago and, just as United have never effectively replaced his penetrating skills down their right flank, neither will Everton, though his stay on Merseyside was short and even more unpredictable.

Yet one can quite see why Fiorentina had to have him. The Italian club lies in midtable: Kanchelskis, when he is switched on, can mean the difference between anonymity and a European adventure. and that can recompense Vittorio Cecchi Gori, the Fiorentina president, for his £8 million outlay. Cecchi Gori simply had to buy; he had bid £6 million, the Serie A transfer deadline was upon him, and Everton was persuadable when the offer reached £8

The scene outside the gates



Kanchelskis: on the move again and leaving England

sleep, the new god for Fiorentina, a player who should be in his prime at 28. porters and to the press. They wanted to know why the player wore a black and white tie, the colours of Juventus, Fiorentina's despised enemy, Later, Kanchelskis mod-

elled his new shirt, No 32, which just about equals, in billion lire, the transfer fee and the wages that make Kanchelskis far and away the most expensive straniero to land in Italy from England.

There will be regret that he has left. Kanchelskis, with his

wife, Inna, and infant son, Andrei jr, could be captivating company. We saw the human side of the man who regularly brought over his mother-in-law from the Ukraine, whose own mother works still in a car radio factory, and who had grown up under the old Soviet

He became released as a youth during perestroika and, with considerable help from new friends such as Rune Hauge, the infamous agent from Norway, he found his way to Old Trafford. We saw what a thoroughbred sprinter he is, what an imaginative scorer of fine goals. We real-ised that, together with exceptional movement and balance. he had bravery, too - it was encapsulated in the performance of April 13, 1994, when Kanchelskis was an uncontrolled spirit inspiring United to a 4-1 FA Cup semi-final replay victory over Oldham Athletic at Maine Road.

Joe Royle, the Oldham manager that night, was to come into money at Everton, and to persuade Peter Johnson to buy the winger who destroyed his former team. Once again, agents and middle men, stretching all the way back to Shakhtyor Donetsk, his first club, who demanded a third of the transfer prize, manipulated and surrounded

He had grown tired of United, disenchanted, the way Alex Ferguson made him ry. Curiously, his grumbling complaint in the last months at Goodison - months in which Fiorentina agents were in evidence — concerned an ankle injury that baffled Everion. The whippet from the Ukraine has left his second English club in the lurch. The change from roubles to pounds to lire is his legacy.

Bell's Scottish League Premier division

First division

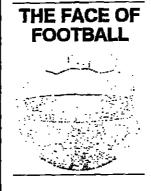
GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Comah's Quay v Sitton Ferry

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier division: Cork v Dundak (20). UCD v Shamrock (2.15).

UK LIVING WOMEN'S FA CUP: Fith round: Wembley v Proctor Rangers: Southnampton v Berthamosted; Middlestrough v Bloston; Mibrali v Doneaster, Totlenham v Coydor, Reading v Aston Villa; Areanal v Huddersfield.

Val. Argenia Val.Connection of vision: Blyth Spartars v Wolverhampton: Bradford v Aston Will, Gasswood St Neiers: V Stourport, Shefflerd Worthesday v Huddensheld, Southern division: Best-

Complex saga of | From rock bottom to fever pitch



By Andrew Longmore

aul Ashworth is an English teacher and is bonkers about Arsenal and Ms Hughes, the history teacher, in that order. Trevor Wat-kins is a City solicitor and is bonkers about his fiancée, his job, his cats and AFC Bourne mouth in roughly that order. One is tall, dark, thirty-something and fictional; the other is small, receding, 31 and real. In the week which saw the

first preview of Fever Pitch the film (due for release on April 4), it is appropriate that a true drama of footballing devotion was being played out on the South Coast, featuring a hero of spectacular ordinari ness who is still trying to work out how he got himself mixed up in all this.

Eight days ago, when the receivers were called in, it seemed that years of neglect had finally caught up with AFC Bournemouth. The club was £4 million in debt and the bank wanted its money back. But, the next day, the players turned out, and beat, Bristol City without being paid, heraiding a week of remarkable emotion which could yet carry the club through to a promised land of financial stability.

Two thousand people packed the Winter Gardens on Tuesday and donated £31,000 to the Save the Cherries Trust Fund. In the wings, as the MC announced "the man who organised this meeting", Watkins was begging someone else to come onto the stage with him. No amount of legal training had prepared him for this moment. "I'm a supporter just like you," he, began, "and I'm here to ensure we still have a football club to support." And they cheered him to the rafters.

survival, in the League and at the bank. Unlike for Ashworth in Fever Pitch, there is no catharsis and no fulfilment, just an instinct that the club is worth preserving because. like the pier and sea, it has always been there.

Warkins is no Jack Walker. He just wants to show he cares. Photograph: Peter Trievnor

recent years," Watkins said.
"One of its orchestras went. the cricket has gone and, if nobody had done anything, the football would have gone too. We had a three-day death sentence. It was that bad."

But somebody did do something. He offered help and was soon the focus for a fullscale rescue mission, a cotrustee of the fund, chairman of a revivalist meeting in the Winter Gardens and an unlikely symbol of hope.

I did begin to wonder what I was letting myself in for. But couldn't just say: 'Sorry,

row. I wanted to give it a go. That morning, he had watched Mel Machin, the manager, reduced to tears by having to sack some of the catering staff. Then there were the players who barely knew what the receivers were, but instinctively understood they "Bournemouth has been should play against Bristol, losing too many things in and his own distant memory

of standing on the terraces with his father for the first time 25 years before. He still goes with his father, except these days they sit in the vicepresidents' seats in the stand.

is instinct proved cor-rect. His old school, L Bournemouth Grammar, raised £600, a listener to the local radio station donated a signed England shirt for auction, two Bristol City supporters drove down to Bournemouth with a cheque for £25, a lady handed in her invalidity benefit, Watkins was interviewed on television

and the ball was rolling. By Tuesday night, the Football League had agreed a stay of execution. Technically. Watkins and the town now have 13 days to raise £300.000 to ensure that Bournemouth can complete their fixtures to the end of the season. Unofficially, the more money raised, the stronger the message to the league HQ and to potential long-term investors.

"Ali we are doing here is buying time," Watkins said. "I'm not Jack Walker, I have no money to invest, but we can show the league that we care about our club, that we deserve to have a football team. It's not a campaign to take control, it's not about me or any individual. It's about the club and about thousands like me who love football and love our clubs."

It has been quite a week for Watkins, but today's home game against Blackpool is already a triumph. A capacity crowd of 12,000 is expected. When I have children, I want to be able to take them to watch Bournemouth," Watkins said, "and, if it all works, I shall tell them there was a day when I thought they would never see this." Or, as Paul Ashworth would say to Ms Hughes: "It's not just a damn game, it's football."

RUGBY UNION

Kick-oil 230 unless stated

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-oft 2.30

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Earswick; York Acom v Redfall.

HOCKEY

Five nations' chamoionship

Frustrated Francis consoled by form of strike pair

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

GERRY FRANCIS, the Totenham Hotspur manager. glanced up at the two columns of players' names on his office noticeboard yesterday. Those available for the FA Carling Premiership game against Chelsea at White Hart Lane this afternoon numbered 16; those unavailable, hecause of injury or suspension, amounted to 13. Francis laughed.

"I have to, otherwise it would drive me mad," he said. "It's disappointing, it's frus-trating and I'm led up with it. I've got such a good team on paper; the trouble is. I can t play half of it."
With Teddy Sheringham

and Chris Armstrong still sidelined, Francis will again field the youngest forward line in the Premiership — Steffen Iversen, 20, and Rory Allen, 19. "They've at least been able to show everyone what ability

they ve got." Francis said.
Rund Gullit, the Chelsea
player-manager, has yet to
perm two from Mark Hugbes, Gianluca Vîalli and Ğianfranco Zola — and may yet play all three strikers. "You have to do what is easiest for players to recognise, what gives them confidence," he said, somewhat cryptically.

Joe Royle, the Everton man-ager, will be given a substan-tial slice of the £8 million Fiorentina paid for Andrei Kanchelskis to spend on much-needed reinforcements. Darren Eadie, the Norwich City winger, heads Royle's list, though he admitted: "It is one thing having money to spend but quite another finding available players good enough to spend it on."

Bill' Archer, the Brighton chairman, and Dick Knight. head of the consortium trying to take over the struggling Nationwide League third division club, held talks in London yesterday with the Centre of Dispute Resolution, an independent mediation service. A statement issued after-

wards said that Archer and Knight .had "made further progress in working out a framework for a potential restructuring of the club". The parties will meet again within the next fortnight.

Kevin Horlock, the Swindon Town midfield player. yesterday completed his £1.5 million move to Manchester City. Jan Aage Fjortoft, the Middlesbrough striker, has joined Sheffield United for

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL Second division FA Carting Premiership (1) Asion Villa v Sunderland West Ham 23 5 7 11 19 30 Southampton 22 5 5 12 31 59 7 Meddlesbro 23 5 6 12 29 43 (10) Botton v Birmingham (11) Bradford v Huddersfleid

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COURTAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bactiont v Netherme; Crippiland v Farmitant; Costs Countings - Crippiland v Method Resident y Method Castlering and Guidtord Welton Castlering and Guidtord Velocity Hondary Town v Reviews Park Vale; Sandhurs v Ashtold, Vilang Sports v Ash; Westhold v Charleigh

field	First division
ond	(45) Clydebank v Archie
am	(46) Falkark v Dundee
ham	(48) St Johnstone v Greenock Morton
LFAPS	(49) St Minen v Stirling
4 40 27 72	Second division
	() Ayr v Livingston
11 40 30 46 8 45 30 44	(—) Ayr v Livingston
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6 37 28 44	() Queen of South v Brachin
B 37 36 44	Third division
8 37 36 44 5 37 26 42 8 24 20 42	() Alloa v Forlar
3 26 20 41	(—) Arbroath v Queen's Park
5 34 30 40	() Cowdenbeath v East Strang
11 39 45 36 10 31 30 36	(-) Montrose v Inverness CT
9 22 30 34	(—) Ross County v Albion
13 26 34 34	ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Aviestus
13 29 34 33 11 31 42 31	v Kingstonian; Bishop's Stortford v Dukench
13 30 38 31	Albaro, Harrow v Grays, Heybridge
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	Staines V Carshation; Sustin United Orient Car Vesidon v Chatter Vesidon
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15 26 41 26 13 20 33 24	Rovers, Bognor Regis v Markow Canve
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	v Basingstoke, Thame v Berkhamsted
ptors	Toolog and Michael v Worthing Usbridg v Abrotton Town: Whitelease v Walton an
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thorpe	Todony and Michan v Worthing Usbridge v Abrigation Town; Whyteleak v Walton an Hersharr, Wokingtam v Madenhead Un- ted. Second division: Challon's Piete President Option: Madenhead v Peter
orough	Bracimes; Donicis V Metopoliza Police Edouare v Cheshunt; Egnam v Hungerford
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Orough	Brasmer, bonking V Mellioponium Protes Edgware v Cheshurt, Egham v Hungerhot Laighton Town v Horsham, Tabury Wwennoe, Ware v H Hernpsteed; Weinber v Windsor and Elan, William v Leahenbad Third division: Brastian v Homothadh
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Ster	Brachner, Donard V Medicontral Programs Edymans v Cheshum; Egnam v Harsperford Leighton Town v Horsham, Tsoury Whenthoe, Ware v H Herspastead; Wemble V Windson and Elon; Witham v Leatherhead Tahd division; Brachtee v Normchard- Camberley v Avoley, Caption v Southal Flackwell Heath v East Thurrook; Harriow Levies, Hertord v Wealdstone; Tring Nrigsbury
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Siter	Brachner, Donich V Medicional Prince Edyman v Cheshurtt Egnam v Horsperford Leighton Town v Horsbarn, Tsoury Wiverthoe, Ware v Horsbarn, Tsoury Wiverthoe, Ware v Horsbarn, Wenterbe v Windson and Elon, Witham v Leatherhead Third division: Brachner v Horndhurch Camberley v Aveley, Caption v Southal Flackwell Health v East Thurosk; Harrige Lesses, Hertooti v Wealdstone; Trense division (ARTS) (PERSEL Premier division (ARTS) v Lesses, Hertooti v Wealdstone; Trense division (ARTS) v Lesses (Perselle v Cheshurtha
Orologh L F A Pts 6 52 24 59 6 49 31 53 9 40 36 50 10 37 31 48 3 48 30 46	Brachner, Lichturg V Medicontral Programs Edyware v Cheshurt: Egnam v Humperford Leighton Town v Horsham, Tsoury Wernnon, Ware v Hempstead: Wernble v Windson and Ellon; Witham v Leatherhoad Third dhylaton: Brantine v Nomchurth Camberlay v Aveley, Caption v Southal Flackwell Heath v East Thurnock: Harton Lewes, Hertona v Wealdstone: Tring Kingsbury SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE. Premier of Visions Ards v Lindeld, Chitomille v Crused an: Gloraron v Coloranie: Gleritoran Portadown. First division: Baylotare
Drough	Brachner, Denicity V Medicontral Programs Schulars v Cheshurit Egnam v Humperford Leighton Town v Horsham, Tsoury Wwentow, Ware v Hernsteed Windson and Ellar, Witham v Leatherhoad Third division: Bratter v Homburch Camberley v Avoley, Clapton v Southal Flactionel Heaft v East Thurson's Hardow Leves, Hertford v Wealdstone; Tring Kingsbury Smithnoff IRISH LEAGUE Premier of Vision Ards v Lindeld, Chicarnile v Chisadars, Gonardon v Coloranie; Glaritoran Portadown, First divisions Sallydare Potadown, First divisions Sallydare Detailery, Edilymonda v Cambi; Lame
Modugh	Brachner, Donich V Medpoporan Program Edyman v Cheshum; Egnam v Humperford Leighton Town v Horsham, Troury Wenning, Ware v Hempsteed: Wentile v Windson and Elon; Witham v Leatherhoad Third division: Brachner v Homohurch Camberling v Aveley, Caption v Southal Flackwell Heath v East Thurnosk; Harlow Lewes, Hertond v Wealdstone: Tring kingsbury SwiffRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE Premier division Ards v Lindeld, Cittornile v Crused ans, Glorauon v Collegane; Glorichan Postadowa, Flest division: Sallyclare Distillery; Bothymona v Cambol; Lame v Bangor, Omagin v Newry Fall HARP NATOWAL I SACILIE Fall HARP I ASCRI MATTOWAL I SACILIE Fall HARP MATTOWAL I SACILIE Fall HARP I ASCRI MATTOWAL I SACILIE FALL HARP MATTOW
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Drough	Brachner, Denicity V Medicontral Programs Edyware v Cheshum; Egnam v Horsperford Leighton Town v Horsbarn, Tsoury Wivermon, Ward v H Horspetend; Wemble v Windson and Ellon; Witham v Leatherhoad Third Chieston: Errattree v Horsbarn, Camberley v Avoley, Chapton v Southal Flacional Health v East Thurnosk; Hartge Levies, Hertford v Wealdstone: Tring Amgsbury SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE. Premier of Visions Ands v Lindeld, Chiconville v Chiesed are, Gloration v Colorania; Glentona Portadowa. Flagt divisions Sallyclare Distallery; Bollymonia v Camick; Lame v Bandon, Omachi v Newey
Modugh	Brachner, Denicity V Medicontral Programs Stagnars v Cheshum't Egnam v Humperford Leighton Town v Horsham. Troury Werenton, Ware v Horsham. Troury Werenton, Ware v Hernsteed Wemble v Windson and Ellan, Witham v Leatherhoad Third dehiston: Bratter v Nomberton V Southal Flactioned Heaft v East Thurnos't Hardow Lewes, Nertlotti v Wealdstone: Trong Nargsbury Staffend v Wealdstone: Trong Nargsbury Staffend v Wealdstone: Trong Nargsbury Staffend v Chicago are, Gloradow. First division: Salycture Distillery, Bellymona v Cambic Lame Banger: Omagin v Newy Fall HARP LAGER MATIONAL LEAGUE Premier division. First history Eta/Sirgon Salbroume v Home Farm (7 0), Sirgon Bohermans (7.30).
Modugh	Brachner, Denicity V Medicontral Programs Stagnars v Cheshum't Egnam v Humperford Leighton Town v Horsham. Troury Werenton, Ware v Horsham. Troury Werenton, Ware v Hernsteed Wemble v Windson and Ellan, Witham v Leatherhoad Third dehiston: Bratter v Nomberton V Southal Flactioned Heaft v East Thurnos't Hardow Lewes, Nertlotti v Wealdstone: Trong Nargsbury Staffend v Wealdstone: Trong Nargsbury Staffend v Wealdstone: Trong Nargsbury Staffend v Chicago are, Gloradow. First division: Salycture Distillery, Bellymona v Cambic Lame Banger: Omagin v Newy Fall HARP LAGER MATIONAL LEAGUE Premier division. First history Eta/Sirgon Salbroume v Home Farm (7 0), Sirgon Bohermans (7.30).
Modugh F A Pts 53 6 59 31 53 4 41 25 53 9 40 36 53 4 41 25 53 9 42 32 42 10 33 44 40 10 33 44 40 112 31 31 40 112 31 3	Brachner, Denicity V Medicontral Programs Stagnars v Chrishiant; Egnam v Humperford Leighton Town v Horsham, Troury Wwenton, Ward v Hernpsteed; Wembler, Ward v Hernpsteed; Wembler Windson and Ellan; Witham v Leatherhoad Third dehiston: Bracher o v Homohurd Camberlay v Avoley, Caption v Southal Flactionel Heaft v East Thurson's Hardow Lewes, Herdoot v Wealdstone: Trong Ningsbury Stafffend v Wealdstone: Trong Ningsbury Staffend v Camberlage Children v Canada are, Gonadow, Finst division: Salycture Distillery, Ballymonta v Cambic Lame Banger, Omagin v Newy Fall HARP LAGER MATIONAL LEAGUE Premier division, Finn Harps v Bray (7 30; Shelbourne v Home Farm (7 0), Singe Bohermans (7.30).
Modugh A Pb 9931 S 9 40 35 50 9 42 41 12 50 37 31 31 40 39 30 39 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30	Braches, Denicty V Medicontal Programs of Carlonary V Horsham, Tsoury V Horsham, Tsoury V Wenning, Ware V Horsham, Tsoury V Windson, Ware V Hernsteed Wentile V Windson and Ellart, Witham V Leatherhoad Third Children's V Avoley, Clapton V Southal Flactwell Health V East Thurnash Harder Lewes, Herdon V Wealdstone; Tring Amysbury Shiftmore Fire Contracting Clienters, Santranor V Colorania, Glenters, Portadown, First division: Salyclare Distalery, Ballymonia V Camok: Lame Pender division, Front division, Fron
Modugh F A Pb 53 6 49 31 53 4 41 25 53 9 40 36 50 4 41 25 53 9 42 41 10 39 42 41 17 77 34 41 10 39 42 42 11 34 49 12 31 34 49 12 31 34 49 12 31 34 49 12 31 34 49 12 31 34 49 13 32 42 33 35 13 42 32 42 33 35 14 33 40 33 35	Brachner, Denicity V Medicontral Programs of Segurary v Chrishiant; Egnam v Hamperfood Leighton Town v Horsham, Tsoury Weenhoe, Ward v Hernpsteed; Wembler Windson and Ellan, Witham v Leatherhoad Third dehiston: Brantine v Homburd; Camberlay v Aveley, Caption v Southal Flactioned Heaft v East Thurnosi; Harriow Lewes, Nertlood v Wealdstone: Tring Nargsbury Swiftmoff; IRISH LEAGUE Premier division: Ards v Lindeld, Chitemille v Chisadars; Gloriant v Camberla, Egnacon v Coloranie; Glorianta General Portadown. First division: Salycture Distillery, Bellymona v Cambic Lame Banger, Omagin v Newy Fall HARP LAGER MATIONAL LEAGUE Premier division, Firm Harps v Bay 17 30; Shebroume v Home Farm (7 0), Singe Bohermans 17.30;
Modugh F A Pb 53 6 49 31 53 4 41 25 53 9 40 36 50 4 41 25 53 9 42 41 10 39 42 41 17 77 34 41 10 39 42 42 11 34 49 12 31 34 49 12 31 34 49 12 31 34 49 12 31 34 49 12 31 34 49 13 32 42 33 35 13 42 32 42 33 35 14 33 40 33 35	Braches, Denicty V Medicontal Programs of Carlonary V Horsham, Tsoury V Horsham, Tsoury V Wenning, Ware V Horsham, Tsoury V Windson, Ware V Hernpsteed Wentile V Windson and Ellart, Witham V Leatherhoad Third Children's V Avoley, Clapton V Southal Flactwell Health V East Thurnash Harder Lewes, Herdon V Wealdstone; Tring Amysbury Shiftmore Fire Contracting Clienters, Santranor V Colorania, Glenters, Contracting Contracting Contracting Contracting Contracting Distalery, Ballymonia V Camok: Lame Distalery, Ballymonia V Camok: Lame Distalery, Ballymonia V Camok: Lame Permier division, Front Harps V Bray (7 30) Shebroune V Horne Farm (7 0), Slepp Bohemans (7:30).
Modugh A Pb 933 A Pb 935 A 9 40 35 42 41 9 40 35 32 42 41 10 37 31 31 40 39 30 32 32 32 10 2 37 31 31 40 39 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30	Braches, Denicty V Medicontal Plans Braches, Denicty V Microson, Ware v Horsham, Tsoury V Wennine, Ware v Horsham, Tsoury V Windson, Ware v Hernsteed Windson and Elert Witham v Leatherhoad Third Chieston: Braches V Capiton v Southal Flactwell Heafthy V East Thurnash Harfor V Medicsione. Tring Amysbury Shiften V Colorante, Tring Angsbury Shiften V Colorante, Glentonia Portadowa, First division: Acts v Lottled, Citicomite v Crused at Colorante, Glentonia Portadowa, First division: Salyclare Distalery, Ballymonia v Camok: Lame Banger, Omagin v Newry FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier division, First Harp v Bray (7 30) Shebourna v Home Farm (7 0), Siego Bohemans (7:30).
Modugh A 99333 444 41 44 44 44 44 44 44 44 44 44 44 44	Brachner, Denicity V Medicontral Paragrams Edyment v Cheshum't Egnam v Humperford Leighton Town v Horsham. Troury Wwenton, Ward v Hernpateedt Wentole v Windson and Ellan, Witham v Leatherhoad Third devision: Brantene v Homohurd Camberley v Avoley. Clapton v Southal Flactioned Heafth v East Thurson's Hardow Leves. Herdood v Wealdstone: Trong Kingsbury Smithnoff IRISH LEAGUE Premier of vision Ands v Lindeld, Chicardie Gentral Aragonary v Colorante: Glandom v Camer Salyctare Destileny. Bellymona v Camer Salyctare Destileny. Bellymona v Camer Salyctare Destileny. Bellymona v Camer League Premier division. Finn Happ v Bray IT 30, Shelbroume v Home Farm IT 0), Siego Bohermans IT 30. FOOTBALL Kick-off 3.0 unless stated FA Carting Premiership
Modugh A Pb 933 A Pb 935 A 9 40 35 42 41 9 40 35 32 42 41 10 37 31 31 40 39 30 32 32 32 10 2 37 31 31 40 39 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30 30	Brachner, Denicity of Medicontral Programs of Sections of Cheshinating Control Legiston Town v. Horsham. Troury Westmon, Ward v.H. Hernjasteedt Wentble v.Windson and Ellart, Witham v.Leatherhoad Third dehiston: Brattere v. Homohurd Camberlay v. Avoley. Clapton v. Southal Flactioned Heaft v. East Thurson's Hardow Leves, Herdoot v. Wealdstone: Trong Nampsbury. SMIRNOFF (RISH LEAGUE Premier of Vision Ands v. Lindeld, Chitchnelle v. Chisade are, Gonarior, Generican Portadown. Pinst division: Bacyclare Desidery, Badymona v. Camok. Lama Banger, Omagin v. Newry. FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier division. Finn Happ v. Beby Tools. Shelbroutne v. Home Farm (7.0), Singo Bohomans (7.30). FOOTBALL Kock-off 3.0 unless stated FA Carling Premiership Newcastle v.Leicester (4.0)
Modugh A Pb 953 F 24 953 6 4 41 25 53 9 43 35 34 44 44 49 49 35 34 34 44 49 49 35 34 44 44 49 49 49 35 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36 36	Braches, Denicity of Medicontain Planting of Management Edymans of Plantin Hamper and Leighton Town v Horsham. Troury Westmon, Ward vH Hernpateed: Wemble v Windson and Ellar, Witham v Leatherhoad. Third chieston: Bracher o v Homohurch Camberley v Aveley. Clapton v Southal Flactwell Health v East Thurrook: Hardow Lusies, Herdond v Weakstone: Trong Nargabury. Swiftmorf: Intel® LEAGUE Premier of Vision Ands v Lindeld, Criticinale v Crused are. Gonation: General Restations. First division: Sadyclare Distillery, Bellymonta v Cambo: Lame Banger, Omagh v Newry. FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier division. Finn Harps v Bray 17 30; Shebrama v Home Farm 17 0), Singa Behomans 17:30; League FA Caring Premiership Newcastle v Leicester 14 0). Nationwide League
Page	Brachner, Denicity of Medicontral Programs of Sections of Cheshinating Control Legiston Town v. Horsham. Troury Westmon, Ward v.H. Hernjasteedt Wentble v.Windson and Ellart, Witham v.Leatherhoad Third dehiston: Brattere v. Homohurd Camberlay v. Avoley. Clapton v. Southal Flactioned Heaft v. East Thurson's Hardow Leves, Herdoot v. Wealdstone: Trong Nampsbury. SMIRNOFF (RISH LEAGUE Premier of Vision Ands v. Lindeld, Chitchnelle v. Chisade are, Gonarior, Generican Portadown. Pinst division: Bacyclare Desidery, Badymona v. Camok. Lama Banger, Omagin v. Newry. FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier division. Finn Happ v. Beby Tools. Shelbroutne v. Home Farm (7.0), Singo Bohomans (7.30). FOOTBALL Kock-off 3.0 unless stated FA Carling Premiership Newcastle v.Leicester (4.0)

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	UNBOAND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accomption Stanley v Matthe; Bamber Bridge v Hyde. Bestop Audithand v Samber berough Beston v Barrow, Chorley v Smiley Cohwin Bay v Alfreton, Friodey v Kriter: Gusseley v Blyth Spartans; Anowsley v Spartnymon; Lancaster v Leek, Rumoom y Burton, First division; American LR v Achien Linded, Curron, Addition; Gentral
	Accordiction Stanley v Marme: Barriber
	Recipe v H.de. Ristion Auditand v Gens-
'	because Poston v Barrow: Chorley V
	Striev Cohora Sz./ v Afreton Faciliev v
	Water Gusteley v Bivth Spartens: Knowsley
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	- Fundam First division: Atherian LR v
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	Achan Unried Curzon, Adriban v Greina: Congletim v Farsley Cebts, Bioyistian v Great Harwood: Larooln United v Hamboale Town, Marioox Town v Leight, Raddiste v Bradland Pk Aver Wannington v Nethanied.
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	Massie, Barland North Fernty v Whatstable Town Tauriton v Spaldang, Whitely v Twenton In
	Whisely v Twenton in
-	GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor
-	Car v Aberstwitt, Barry v Rhyl (2 30); Caersac v Carroan; Carmanhan Town v Caernaton, Corwy v Lansandirad (2 30); First Town v Ebbw Vale Holywel v Ton Berton Liver Cabilad v Carman Barry
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	Portimacog v Nowtown ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier di-
	ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier di-
	vision: Bowers v Ford United, East Ham v
ببحث	Hulbridge Sports, Saffron Walden v Great
ench:	Watering League Cup: Fourth round:
v St	Danbury Trafford v Puzavell Hospital:
ne v Rect	ESSEX SENION LEAGUE: Premier of visiont Banets v Ford United, East Ham v H-Cordys Sports, Saftion Walden v Great Watering League Cup: Pounth round: Darbury Trafford v Rumed Hospital: Santon Royals v Raylech LONDON SPARTIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Beaconstield SYCOB v Hannings; v London Hospital: Manning v London Responsible SYCOB v Hannings; v London Hamild v London Hamild V London Hamildon Market v London Hamildon Hamildon V London Hamildon Hamildon Hamildon V London Hamildon Hamil
TUPE:	LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Promier
ed r Dwiy	division: Beaconstield SYCOB v Haringey:
arion	
	Cocidosters: Isangton St Marys v Hillangdon
MACY.	Bott. S. Margaeshury v. Croydon. Wel- tram Abbey v. Woodbord MINERVA SOUTH MRDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Brache Sputa v.
OCC11	tram Abbey v Woodlord
Ksey Sted,	MINERVA SQUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE:
nege	Premier division: Brache Sparta v
and	MCCCGSC. TO SUCKERCIPETE AIRPORT V WENTY
Un-	Garden Harpenden v London Colney; Langford v Eiggleswade: Million Naynes v
Je: y	Langford v Biggleswade: Million Neynes v
Okca	i Poses sat Povskom v Anesev. I occumpton
ord.	v Becteri
ruid. Fy v	SCREWITH DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier
noley	division: Backwell v Paulton R: Bideford v Bridgivater Calne v Elmore, Chard v
read.	Brodgivster Cathe v ElmoreChard v
wch:	Bridgester Caine v Elmore. Chard v Mangatsheid, Choppenham v Torrington, Odd Ottom v Bresington, Westbury v
mal.	Odd Commin & Brisington, Westbury v
CM A	
	Jewison Eastern Counties Lea-
ng v	Bertrages E-WISON EASTERN COUNTIES LEA- GUE Premise division Cleaton v Suchury, Faherham v Stowmanket, Gorteston v Watter, Hedreigh U v Lowestoff Haiste ad v Soharn Harwich and Parkenton v Woodselding Town, March v Fettragwe P and T, Normarket v Sudbuty Res, Tiptree v
	Falennam v Stowmarket, Gorleston v
× 45−	Wattor: Hedievah U v Lowestoft Halstead v
ised.	Softart Harvict and Perkersion v
उद्याप	Woodbridge Town, March v Fellickowe P
SE 1	and it, Novimarkal v Suchary Res. Tiptree v
THE V	Warboys
	HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division:
GUE:	HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Grant v Barrbury, Lambourn Sports v Swercon Supermacres, North Leagh Burrham: Shortwood v Abingdon United:
3C).	Swircon Supermarine, North Leath v
go v	Burthern: Shortwood v Abingdon United:
	Tuttley v Canerran
	•
•	TOMO

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Birmingham v Crista: Palace if 0, Leopards v Chester (7 0) Landon v Warting (5 0); Sheffeld v Normaster (7 0) National League Men. Fest division: Prymouth v Wearminster (4 0, Second division: Deby v Chessington (5.0), South Bank v Shindon (4.0), Prames Valley v South Woltes (4 0) Wearen Second division: Tyrin and Wear v Deneaster (2 30)

HOCKEY

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division:
Barterd Tigers v Guidburd; la Holyhead
Lastre Cestre 1 D. Canterbury v Reading
la' Polo Farm, 1 D; Havent v Cannock lat
Havent College, 2 15). Hourstew v Oid
Lasystomers is Dukos Meadows, Criswab, 2 Si; Southgan v Eact Grinstoad (aBoomfeet School, 2 Or; Sumbon v
redesigen ja Sugden Hood, 2 O; Housen's
division: Beaston v Frebrands (at
Mighdods, Notingham, 2 O; Blusharts v
Ergpeston (at Hitchin Boys School, 2 O;
Bourn's v Domosphir lat King Edward's
Gulfs School, 2 Dir; Bromley v Crostyr for
Prof. J. Section (2 Dir; Bromley v Crostyr for
Prof. J. Section (2 Dir; Bromley v Crostyr for
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Prof. J. Section (2 Dir; Bromley v Crostyr for

LEAGUE: Premier division:	JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First of
Standev v Marme: Bamber I	vision: Andover v Bemeston Heath.
e. Beshop Auckland v Geins-	Downton v Romsey: East Cowes v Christ-
oston v Barrow, Chorley v yn Szy v Alfreich, Frickley v	church; Gasport v Cowes Sports; Petersfield v Wimborne Town: Portsmouth v
VA 52/ V ARREIGH, MICHEY V	BAT, Ryde Sports v Eastleigh: Thatcham
iey v Biyth Spartens; Khowsley or, Lancester v Leek, Runcom	Town v Lymengton, Whitchurch v
irst division: Atherton LR v	Bournerrouth
d Curror Ashton v Gretna:	WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First
Curzon, Ashton v Gretna: Farslay Cetto: Droylsden v od: Lincoln United v Harrogate	division: Radiocham v Faversham: Canter-
od: Lincoln United v Harrocate	bury v Turbridge Wells. Chatham v
n Town v Leigh; Radditte v Rie Wannigton v Netherfield.	bury v Turbridge Wells. Chatham v Ramegate, Cray v Wootendt: Crockentill v Sheppoy. Doal v Furness: Greenwich v
Aver Warrington v Netherfield.	Sheppey, Deal v Fumess: Greenwith v
Stocksbridge PS; Workington	Convinant Louiswood v Folkestone Invida. Tharnesmeed v Stade Green.
Cwn. Worksop v Fluton	Thamesmend v Slade Green.
SERG VASE: Fish round:	UHILSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEA-
v Herne Bay, Coll Row and leclington Temers: Durham v	GUE Premier division: Boston v
ecurgion lemers duram y	Cogenhoe, Mintoes Blackstone v Potton;
Review North Forther	Northempton Spenoer v Desborought, St
Barlong, North Femby v Over, Taurillon v Spalding.	Nexts v Newport Pagnett, Stamford v Holbeach: S and L Corby v Eynesbury.
don in	Stotfold v Soume, Wootton v Ford Sports.
ACKE OF WALES, Dans	I INTERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Barwell
stuyt: Barry v Rhyl (2 30):	v Chesetmen Flakenhally Hinddes Athletic
amoran; Camarihan Town v	Pershare T v Petsalt V. Rushalt O v Bridgnorth: Sandwell v Knypersley V.
Lorrwy v Llansamifraid (2.30);	
Copie tole: Honward Dec	Stapenhilly Halesquen H.
stwitt: Barry v Rhyl (2 30); amoran; Carmenten Town v Carray v Lansandirad (2 30); Ebbw Vale Holywell v Ton Cable-Tel v Carnaco Bay, v Nowtoen	Slapenhili v Halestywent H. SINDSLEGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier definion: Avo- chunch v King's Health: Colestill v Knowle; Land Lloyd v Bitstan Community College, Handraten Tembers v Massey Ferguson, Hejngale v Striley, Rohmond Swits v Suddey BKL. West Midland Fire Service v Construct Saleton Medicated in Service v
NOR LEAGUE: Premier di-	church a King's Mostly Colorbil a Koonto
rs v Forti United East Ham v	David Llower & Richer Community College
rs v Ford Unded, East Ham v oorts, Safton Walden v Great	Handrahan Timbers v Massey Ferruson
eacus Cura: Fourth round:	Highcase v Shaley, Richmond Switts v
zford v Puzawell Hospitali.	Studiey BKL West Midland Fire Service v
rs v Rayleigh	Coveriny Spherx, Warcestera v Southern Challenge Cup: Fourth round: Wel-
PARTAN LEAGUE: Premier constield SYCOB v Harngey:	Challenge Cup: Fourth round: Well-
amersham Hamfield v	estourne v Mer KA. President's Cup: Third round: Alveston v Palasworth North
Amersham, Harofield v	Warenck, Continental Star v Colletts Green.
Sandaria Maria	BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier
Istrigion St Marys v Hittingdon rigazistacy v Croydon Wal- v V/coctord	division: Blankth S v Stallard T; Cradley
Duth Midlands League:	Town v Ettingshall Ht, Derlasion v Ludiow T;
vision: Brache Sparta v	Life Terr D., tileisante martine I bates (Mahana)
Suckinghem Althetic v Welwyn	T v Westfields; Stourport S v Walsall Wood; Trindale v Live Town: Wolverhampton C v Gornal Res, Wadnesfield v Briedey Hill T.
penden v London Colney.	Come I Des Washerfield a Deschar VIII T
aggleswade: Militan Naymes v Povston v Arlesey: Toddington	SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First
.urac. e reseasy, reconsigion	ribdounce Assensi v (Camberine 13rd (11 fit
DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier	Charlton v Chaises (11 D): Gitaration
stwell v Paulton A. Bideford v	Chorton v Cholses (110); Gitingham v West Ham (1045); Ipswich v Norwich (110); Portamouth v Outens Park Rangers
Cathe v Elmore. Chard v Chopperham v Torrington, v Brisington, Westbury v	(11 0); Portsmouth v Queens Park Rangers
Tepperham v Torrington,	i (11 Dr. Schutteric v Leyton Chent (11 Dr.)
A Rustudious Measons A	Tottenham v Fusham (110); Watterd v Milwali (1) 0) Second division: Barnet v
ACTEDM COUNTRES LEA	Chartel Polane (11 file Bournesses
ASTERN COUNTIES LEA- II division: Clatton v Suctoury;	Clystal Palace (11.0): Boursemouth v Wycombe (110): Bershford v Swendon (11.0); Brighton v Wenbledon (11.0): Brighton v Wenbledon (11.0): Bristol City v Ordord Utd (110): Bristol Rowers v Tottenham (11.0): Cotchestis Utd v Southampton (12.0); Roading v Luton
Stewmarket Confesion v	(11.0): Brighton v Wimbledon (11.0) Boolel
ersh U v Lowestoft Haistead v	City v Orderd Utd (11 0): Bristol Rovers v
swich: and Parkersion v	Tottenham (110); Colchester Lind v
nwich: and Parkersion v Town, March v Felictowe P	Southampton (120); Roading v Luton
arkat v Suchuty Res. Tiptree v	(11. U)
	Press & Journal Highland Lea-
LEAGUE: Premier division: anbury, Lamboum Sports v	GUE: Bucker Treptle v Wick Academy:
andury. Lamboum Sports v	Cleannacuddin y Peanthoad, Dovoranyaic y
permarche North Leigh v convoced v Abingdon United;	Elgin; Forres Mechanics y Nam County.
SUSU A MONGOO: Custod:	Fort William v Fraserburgh, Huntry v Cover Ketth v Brane, Rothes v Lossismouth
-	
TOMA	RROW
	PRUBLICATION OF THE SECONDARY

Clachnatuddin v Peashoad, Doversnyde v Elgin; Forres Mechanics v Nam County, Fort William v Fraserburgh; Hundy v Cover	Row
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WOMEN'S REPRESENTATIVE MATCH ES: English Universities v Chelinstond (12.0) English Universities v Ipselich (1.30) (af Cambridge)

NOMEN'S COUNTY MATCH: Lancasime

RUGBY LEAGUE

a sign merenessive	A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First ci- vision: Andover v Bemerton Heath. Downton v Romesy; East Cowes v Christ- church; Geoport v Cowes Sports; Petersfield v Wimborns Town; Portsmouthv BAT, Ryde Sports v Eastleght: Theatham Town v Lymington: Whitchurch v Bournerouth WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Begleerham v Favershem; Carler- bury v Turbridge Wells. Chatham v Ramagate. Casy v Woolwart: Coclearhall v Sneppcy; Deal v Furress: Geenwich v Congranat Londswood v Folkestone Invola. Thamesmesti v Stade Green. LIHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEA- GUE: Premier division: Beston v Cogenhoe, Mintoes Blackstone v Potton; Northampton Spencer v Desborough; St Noots v Newport Pagnett, Scinford v Holbeacti: S and L Corby v Eynesbury; Stotold v Bourne, Wootton v Ford Sports. NTEHLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Barwell v Chesetonin, Blakenhall v Knypersley v Stapenhal v Halersowen H. ENDSLENGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Ave- church v Ring's Health Coleshill v Knowle; David Loyd v Bibban Community College; Handralan Timbers v Messey Ferguson, Heigigate v Striley; Richmond Switz v Stackey Bibl. West Mediand Fire Service v Covernity Spinots; Viorcestero v Souttern Challenge Cup: Fourth round: Wel- sebourne v Mer Ky Presider's Cup: Third round: Alveston v Palassworth North Warneck, Continental Star v Collects Green. BANKS'S BRIEWERY LEAGUE: Premier I v Westfinkts; Stourport S v Walstall Wood; Invidate v Live Town: Woherhampton C v Commilles, Wednested v Bredey Hill T. SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier I v Westfinkts; Stourport S v Walstall Wood; Invidate v Live Town: Woherhampton C v Commilles, Wednested v Bredey Hill T. SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Presider I v Rosamort S v Layon O rent (1) (8): Comilles, Wednested v Bredey Hill T. SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Presider I v Rosamort S v Layon O rent (1) (1): Pottsmouth v Choles (1): (1): Gitenpham v Woos Harm (1) (4): [Jewsch v Kornect (1) (1): Pottsmouth v Choles (1): (1): (1): (1): (1): (1): (1): (1):	NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armshopa Waltare v Amold; Ashfield v Denaby, Belper Town v Hallam, Bigg Town v Matiby MW; Hucknell Town v Pickering; Liversedge v Ossett Town; Casett About v Gleschoughton Welfare; Selby v Ponteined Cols; Shefheld v Hatiled Main NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Burscough v Chaddedon; Darwen v Atherton Colleries; Essaword H v Bootle; Holler Old Boys v Mans Road: Nantwich Town v St Heiers; Pennth v Kösgröve; Prescot Cables v Newcastle Town; Rossendale v Glosson North End; Selmon V Vaudralt GM; Tratlord v Clitheroe. FEDERATION BREWERTY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Chester-le-Street v South Shelds; Consett v Durston Federaton; Murlon v Morpath; fffM. Newcastle v Sicolon; Seaham Red Star v Crook; Tow Law v Essengton; West Auckland v Blingham. UNLIET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: Prast division: Chester-le-Street v Sicolon; Seaham Red Star v Crook; Tow Law v Essengton; West Auckland v Blingham. UNLIET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: Prast division: Chester v Chadham v National v Male on V Hassacies; Partifield v Wrick Satideen v Oalwood, Whitehash, v Mile Oak John O'Hara League Cup: Third round: Ringmer v Pagrison. OLD BOYS' LEAGUE: Premier division: Old Actorisars v Old Hamptoniers v Old Hamptoniers v Old Pannetisars; West Wildman v Norsetne. SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one; Ulyssex v Old Finchicians, Witten v Partifield. SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Old Actorisars v Old Esthamelens; Replanams v Carthusams. SCHOOLS MATCHES (lock-off 10.30 unless stated: Under 15 international tooland v Wales (in Dublin, 12.19, FA Pramier denated: Under 15 international tooland v Wales (in Dublin, 12.19, FA Pramier League: Teacher Heister 15 international tooland v Wales (in Dublin, 12.19, FA Pramier League: Teacher Heister 15 international tooland v Wales (in Dublin, 12.19, FA Pramier League: Teacher Heister 15 international tooland
v Chesatown, Bizinenhally + Hindiday Atthetic; Pershore T v Petsall V, Rusthall O v ; Bridgmorth; Sandwell v Krypersley V; Slagenhall v Halestywell H, ENDES BEAUT TINST II BANCE MITY AND	division: Arundel v Southwich; Eastbourns Town v Three Bindges, Horsham YMCA v Heisham; Langney Sports v Hassocks; Partifeld v Wick: Satidean v Oakwood, Whitehamia v Mile Cak John O'Hara! League Cup: Third round: Ringmer v Paofrom.
Studiey BYL. West Middland Fire Service v Coverny Sphritty Widnesses v Southarn Challenge Cup: Fourth round: West estourne v Mer KA. President's Cup: Third round: Alveston v Polisavorth North Wannet: Commercial Size v Chiefs Green.	Glyn OB v Old Vaughantans: Latymer OB v Clapham OX; Old Meadonians v Old Hamptonians SOUTHERN OLVMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Ulysses v Old Finchletens, Witten v Partiald: SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE; Pirst
BANKS'S BRIEWERY LEAGUE: Premiser division: Blowatch S v Stallard T: Cradley Town v Ethnyshall Ht, Derkston v Ludlow T; Hill Top R v Workertumpton Unstad, Malwen T v Westfields; Struppert S v Wastal Wood; Indale v Lye Town: Wolverhampton C v Comil Res, Wednesfield v Bredey Hill T. SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First	division: Old Actorians v Old Esthamelans; Polytectric v Crouch End Varmos; South Bank v Old Parmterians; West Wickham v Norsethen. ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Arthur Durin Cup: Second round: Lancing v Mahermans. Premier division: Etintans v Wideans; Revinited v Carthusens.
Charlton v Chalses (110); Ghangham v West Ham (1045); Ipswich v Norwich (110); Parismouth v Queens Park Rangers	scr-ucous marches (nox-or 10.30 in- less stated): Under-15 integrationat: to- land v Wales (an Dublin, 12.0). FA Premier League Trophy: Under-15: West Vertishre v Northumbertand (11.0). English Full Flan Trophy: Fifth round: Covertry v South Note: (11.0): Liverpool v East Ricking (11.0). Setton v North Tyneado (11.0). Southern Countles Cup: Reaching v Bestey (11.0). Pictiond Shight isk of Wight v Southamp.
111.0); Brighton v Wentbedon (11.0); Bristol City v Oxford Und (11 0); Bristol Rowers v Tottenham (11 0); Cotchester Und v Southampton (12.0); Roading v Luten (11.0) PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEA-CUE: Budge Thetje v Wick Academy; Cuernacuden v Peterhoed, Doverninge v Eign; Forces Mechanics v Nam County.	ton. English Goodylear Trophy (Under-16): Tromas Hepburn, Durham v C4y School, South York: (11.30). Barnet Shieldhouse Cup: Lucepool v Chosler: Crosby v Bodile; Sistmersdale v St Helens; Preston v Bolton, Northern merit: Huddersfield v Bradford; Smetrn v Loofe Info. conscisible Mail v
For William v Fracesburgh; Huntly v Cover. Ketth v Brane, Rothes v Lossismouth	Spon Valley, Newham v Hactorey, London Pear Trophy: Islangton v Hillingdon, Red- bridge v South Landon.
ithana v Gloucester City (at Thombury Avenue, 2.30): Isca v Harleston Magnes (at Exeter School, 11.45); Lowes v Warmpton (at Southdown Club, 1.30): Onland Hawks, v Trogers (at Bartbury Road, 12.30); Oxford University v Stouppur (at \$5 Edward's	RUGBY UNION Courage Clubs Championship Second division Notingham v Moseley (3.0)

Vision of Vision	Courties Cupt. Heading v sessey (11 I). Piction of Shield is let of Wight v Southampton. English Goodyeer Trophy (Under-16): Thomas Hepburn, Duntem v City School, South Yorks (11 30). Barrier Shieldhouse Cupt Liverpool v Chosler: Crosby v Bootle; Sestmensdale v St Helens; Preston v Botton, Northern merit: Huddersfield v Bradford; Preston v Leeds Inter-especiation; Hull v Spon Valley, Newham v Hactmay, London, Pear Trophy: Islangton v Hillingdon; Red. bridge v South London.
RROW	
irhana v Goucester Crity (at Thombury Avenue, 2:30): Isca v Harieston Maggines (at Exeter School, 11.45); Lower v Warmigion (at Southdown Club, 1:30): Orderd Hawke, v Irogans (at Banbury Road, 12:30): Orderd Linversity v Stourpoin (at Sk Edward's School, 2:0): Shofflold v Sk Albans (at Abbeydale Park, 2:0) SCOTTISH INDOOR CUP: Men: Samilinels: Mancasshil v Tortero: W (12:0): Gordoniana v MIM (1:0) Finalt (4:0). Women: Semi-finals: Mancasshil v Tortero: W (12:0): Gordoniana v MIM (1:0) Finalt (4:0). Women: Semi-finals: Chyddadalo v Gorse (10:0): Edmburgh: L v Westan NP (11:0)	RUGBY UNION Courage Clubs Championship Second dhision Nothingham v Moseley (3.0)
Final: (3 0) (at Perth).	Norwich Sports Wilege). BOWLS: World strong championships (in

Courage Clubs Championship	noonet
Second division	NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE Premier
Nothingham v Moseley (3,0)	League: Anchorigns y Farehern; Chichester y Bournemouth; High Wycombe y Ashford;
Fourth division south	Maidenhead v Ramgarhat Old King-
Harden v Tohmel M 200	Stortens v Gore Court: Old Whitelitians v
Herley v Tebard (2.30)	Beckenham; Spencer v Richmond, Wimble-
Newbury v High Wycombe (3.0)	don v Tunbridge Wells, Waking v Winches-
OTHER SPORT	ter: Wokingham v Hampstead/Westminster.
OTHER SECTO	Hampshire/Surrey: Postsmouth v Camber-
BADERNTON: English championships (at	ky: Basingstoke v London Unvisity; Oxfod v
Norwich Sports Wilece).	Ossholt Old Crambighans v Old Mid-
BOWLS: World indoor championships (in	Whitgiltians: Dulwich v Epson: Blandford v
Presturi	Andover Pelesifieki v Southamiston:
ICE HOCKEY, Superleague: Manchester v	Chéann y Purtey, Old Walcountians v
Cardiff (6.0); Bracknell v Avr (6.0);	Barres Kent/Sussex: Authord y Horne Bay,
Nowcastio v Nottingham (6.30)	Bedayheath v Old Bordenians, Baday
LACROSSE: Delty Telegreph Sentor	hwicta v Belvedere: Blackheath v Middle-
Flegs: Semi-limat: Mellor v Stockport (et	ton, Bognor v Sevencela; Brighton v
Chroadle).	Merden Russets: Eastbourne v Mid Sussecc
SNOCKER: Benson and Hedges Masters	Lloyds Bank v Old Holcombeiens; Tules HIII
(at Wernbley Conference Centre)	v Old Williamsoniens, Worthing v Horshern.
VOLLEYBALL: National League; Women:	Middle Berks/Budist and Oxon: American
First division: KLEA, Leads v Sheffleid	v Flictings Paric Bradmett v Old Merchant Taylors'; City of Oxford v PHC Chewick
Wednesday; Ashcomba Guildiord v	Eastcote v Lione, Gestards Cross v Mill Hill-
Foebok Liverpool Cay, London Malory V	Herror v Million Keynes; Headington v
Essex Estonara: Smoke Free Birmington	Familian Common, Newbury v Marlow
v Manchester United Salford; Orgination v	Staines v Sunbury, West Hampeteed v
Retarris Music Chu	Common a reserval, sider citatibation A

the insert of the inperior of	finids.
England v Scotland (at Twickenham, 3.0) Wales v Ireland (at Cardiff Arms Park, 3.0)	DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE MIDLAND LEAGUE: Premier division: Harborne v Hampton-in-Arden: Loughborough Stu- dants v Khalae: North Notes v Stoward:
Courage Clubs Championship Third division	Nottinghern v Coverary and North Warwick- shiss; Olton and West Warwickshire v Blossomfield.
Eister v Walsall (3.0) Pylde v Cillion Havari v Morley Liverpool St Helens v Redruth Odley v Lydney (2.15) Resoling v London Welsh (1.30) Rosslyn Park v Leeds Wharfedele v Harrocate	ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE Premier di- vision A: Bishop's Stortford v Cambridge Univ. Colcreater v Cambridge City, Istandor v Derehem: Peterborough Town v Sudbury; Redbridge and Brord v Chelmstord. Premier striation B: Bedford Town v Mestallif. Bury St. Edmunds v Humingdom; Claction v Rominori; Ipswich and East Sudok v Luton v Rominori; Ipswich and East Sudok v Luton.
Fourth division north	Town; Old Southendian v Norwich City. SUN LIFE WEST LEAGUE Premier
Birmingham/Solfnull v Nunealton Kendal v Stoke-on-Trent Lichfield v Sheffield Preston Grasshoppers v Aspairia (2:15) Sandal v Hereflord Stoutroldge v Whenington Park Worcester v Manchester	division: Bath Buccarreers v Lan and Llar. Bristol Univ v Plymouth: Clavedon v Whitchurch; Richinsons v Teurison Vale; Weston-super-Mare v Swerpsae. WOMEN'S TRIANGULAR TOURNA- NEMT: Loughborough Sudenis v Leicester v English Universities (at Laughborough, 12-30.
Fourth division south Barking v Askaens Beny Hill v Plymouth Charlton Park v Challenham Metopolitan Police v Camberley (3.0) Weston-super-Mare v North Walsham (3.0)	WOMEN'S ENGLISH INDOOR CHAMPI- ONSHIPS: Under-19 and under-16 (at Crystal Peteca, 8.56ent). WOMEN'S LEAGUES; South; Hampstead v Winchester; Horshem v Worthing; Read- ing v Winterster; Horshem v Worthing; Read- ing v Portsmouth West: Bournerouth v Colvell; Sautier U. Leominister; Wimborne
SOUTH WEST: First division: Brutiam, v Launceston, Gloucestor Old Boys v Camborner, Madderhead v Biddywater, St Ives v Stroud: Salactury v Barissepie; Torquay v Maison. NORTH: First division: Hull torsans v Wichas: Sedgley Park v Bradford and	v Redfand; Yate v Exster: North: Stanktum v Poyrton; Sheffeld v Weston: WOMEN'S CLUB MATCHES: Aldridge v Esmouth; Bradenel v Cardiff Ahlebe; Chester v Colwyr Bay; Copdock v Harfeston; Hampton v Shewood; North-ampton v Pictuacic: Sevenoals v Lachtunght (10) Western v Individual

O I TEX SPORT
ATHLETICS: Great Britain v Russia (il Giasgow)
BADMINTON: English championships (a Nowich Sports Village).
BASKETBALL: Budweiser League; Derby Birmingham (7.30), Manchester v Leices
Thomas Valley v Hernel and Wallott (8.0)
National Langue: Men: First division: But and Bolton v Solent (7.30); Notingham
Liverpool (8.0); Plymouth v Britton (7.30) Stockton v Mid Sussex (7.30); Ware Coventry (8.0); Westminster v Ordard (8.0)
Second division: Slough v Northemptot (R Or Solite II v Firestring (R Dr South Wells)
Thames Valley v Bournemouth (3.39)
Women: Part Owision: Banding and Unit
emany voluminant (u.), cystar a self-ion (17.30); London v Northempton (6.0); Prondot v Sheffield (6.30); Themes Valley v Briningham (5.45). Second division
Marchesier (5.0); Salent v Liverpool (6,30) BOWLS: World indoor championships (6
Presion).
ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Notingham\ Basingstoke (7.0); Sheffield y Bracknet (7.0); Certill y Ayr (7.0).
LACROSSE: Shepherds Friendly Social Leogue: Premier division: Timperley
Heeton Mersey, Humelens v Poyeton Cheedie Hume v Cheedie, Daily Jelografi
LEFTCHSTHE CUP; Semi-Ingle: Hellon Min
Telegraph Junior Recs: Semi-train
ROWING: Hampton Schools Heed of the
River. SNOOKER: Regal Welsh Open (r
Name of the latest the

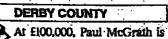
VOLLEYBALL National Ledg First division: Majory Lewishern Lavarpool City: Potonia Eming

OTHER SPORT

15.

ARSENAL A most encouraging feature of Arsenal's recent run is that they do not seem dependent on any

single player, wirning games now without Ian Wright, now without Dennis Bergkamp. But with Paul Merson in such devastating form, and back on the fringe of the England team, thrust in attack seems guaranteed. George Graham, the manager Arsenal sacked, is building a Leeds team no stranger to strongarm methods itself, but infinitely less effective than Arsenal's. Deane is the danger. BG



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Section 1997

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arguably the best signing of the season. Indeed, Jim Smith, 26 years in league management, was moved to say that the defender, who was recalled to the Ireland squad this week. is among the best buys of his career. He will consider McGrath, who faces Liverpool this afternoon, even better value if he is forced to pay Aston Villa a further £100,000 at the end of the season. Under the terms of the transfer, the fee is doubled if Derby avoid relegation.

ASTON VILLA

Penalties have always been a delicate subject at Villa Park since Gareth Southgate's blunder during Euro 96. Dwight Yorke has recently squandered two spot kicks and Villa's youngsters apparently need a few lessons in the art, too. They bowed out of the Birmingham Senior Cup, against West Bromwich Albion, after a 4-3 penalty shoot-out. Rumours that Villa are considering a million-pound sponsorship deal from a Midlands pizza house are

EVERTON

completely true.

The drawbridge went up at Bellefield, Everton's training ground, yesterday, with the press firmly excluded as Everton try to avoid the worst run in the Everton try to avoid the worst run in the club's history of seven successive league defeats. Craig Short will miss the game against Nottingham Forest today after a head injury during the 4-1 defeat at Newcastle. In his absence, Everton are likely to change in a more attacking formation, with Barmby being recalled. Gerrard should keep his place.

BLACKBURN ROVERS

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

Only Blackburn could denv they had appointed a manager. then announce it was true a week later, without actually bringing along said manager. Now, Sven

Goran Eriksson is supposed to be leaving even before he has started. It could only happen at Ewood Park, under the stewardship of Robert Coar, the chairman. On the pitch, Jason Wilcox is doubtful, but Billy McKinlay is free from suspension and his bullish qualities are required after a tame defeat at Tottenham. DM

LEEDS UNITED

created," Rush said pointedly.

Leeds have a five-game unbeaten run to defend, but Arsenal will provide the big-Arsenal will provide the biggest test so far, particularly for a side with only 21 goals from 24 Premiership games. The omission of Ian Rush on Wednesday did not do anything to improve that ratio. "He could be back." George Graham, the manager, suggested, but these are trying times for Leeds strikers." All the strikers are werking hard strikers. "All the strikers are working hard, but there aren't many chances being

CHELSEA

and the second s

Will Tomenham man-mark Zola? Glenn Hoddle says you FC cannot do it at international level, but whenever Zola is close-marked, Chelsea stumble. Having rashly left Mark Hughes out of his starting line-up against Liverpool, only for Hughes to come on and save Chelsea's bacon, Ruud Guillit, the manager, must surely start him this time. And he can hardly drop Vialli after those two goals. Local derbies tend to stand form on its head, but Chelsea are unlikely to lose this one.

LEICESTER CITY

Despite switching to a 4-4-2 formation, initially because of injuries, Leicester have lost none of the snap that prompted

Kevin Keegan to describe them as the hardest-working side in the Premiership when Newcastle lost 2-0 at Filbert Street in October. Emile Heskey will be their main October. Emile Heskey will be dear hadne weapon at St James' Park iomorrow, having drifted to the left of midfield to leave Claridge and Marshall up front — the scruffiest forward partnership in English football, if not the most potent.

RH football, if not the most potent.

COVENTRY CITY

Gordon Strachan has found Gordon Strachan has lound the transition from player to manager eye-opening, especialmanager eye-opening, especially when negotiating transfers. When I ask about a player, because I'm a new manager, the price becomes ridiculous," Strachan said, indignantly, "Some chairmen want to play games and try to take advantage, but I'm not having that." Strachan is learning quickly, judging by the arrival of Gary Breen from Birmingham City, and Aleksandr Evrushok, the Ukrainian, at Highfield Road this week. RK

LIVERPOOL

Defensive disarray. It sums up Liverpool at present. Not only did they produce one of the truly awful defensive collapses ar Chelsea, but defender Neil Ruddock managed to get himself injured last week, in rehabilitation from injury. He was left behind when the team travelled to Amsterdam for a six-a-side tournament, supposed by for rest and recuperation, but still managed to tweak a hamstring. Babb could be recalled, while there will be a choice up front between Berger and Collymore. DM

MANCHESTER UNITED

The sight of United sitting atop the Premiership is ominous for their rivals; so, too, is the growing strength of their squad as the injured players return. Today Jordi Cruyff and Ronnie Johnsen are back in contention, while Beckham and Pallister both came through their return to action in midweek successfully, leaving only Butt.
May and Philip Neville on the sidelines.
Alex Ferguson, the manager, said yesterday: We're looking fresh, the race is on and they want to win it.*

PB

MIDDLESBROUGH

bledon today boasting just one league win on their travels - at Everton in September — and having conceded 25 goals in the last 11 away fixtures. Meanwhile, a delegation of Teesside supporters will visit the Premier League headquarters in London this morning to hand over thousands of signatures comprising a petition protesting against the Premier League's decision to

deduct three points for the team's failure to fulfil a pre Christmas date at Blackburn.

Middlesbrough arrive at Wim-

NEWCASTLE UNITED Already, Kenny Daiglish, the manager, is at odds with the various critics who like to use

him for a bit of target practice. Newcastle have not played particularly well of late, and Dalglish has got it in the neck. He believes, though, that a riposte in the form of a glittering piece of silverware is not impossible. We are supposed to have lost too many games to win the title, but I never knew a race was that cut and dried with just over half a season played, and I've been involved in one or two," he grimaced. DM

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

3 Stuart Pearce is about to appear an authority on the human body, in public at least, after appointing Peter Edwards, the club's fitness trainer, to conduct post-match interviews on his behalf until the end of the season. Edwards stressed after the defeat against Coventry on Wednesday that his words could be attributed to the caretaker-manager and proceeded to describe in baffling details injuries to Roy and Saunders. Roy, it seems, is a more likely starter at Everton today.RH



SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY Benito Carbone is certainly no

softy when it comes to injury. and he will prove his toughness by returning next week to firstteam action just three weeks after a hernia operation. "It is the quickest recovery I've seen from this type of injury." David Pleat, the manager, said. "It is nearly a month ahead of schedule." Pleat has plenty of decisions, with Humphreys, Collins, Newsome and Blinker all vying for a return to a team that recorded an impressive midweek victory at Villa.

SUNDERLAND

Peter Reid, the manager, still hopes to sign Scottish winger Allan Johnston from French club Rennes for £500,000 but the transfer threatens to fall through because Johnston's former club, Hearts, are demanding compensation from Sunderland Johnston departed Hearts on a free transfer under the Bosman ruling last summer. In midfield, Darren Williams, a quietly impressive teenager, keeps his place, belatedly earned following a £50,000 move from tork

HOA	i inet	81	V/L	
- 1 1			Goal	Last five
	P.	Pts	diff	ige games
1 Manchester Uto	24	47	+21	- WANCIN -
2 Arsenal	24		+21	DWLWW.
3 Liverpool	24		+21	DWLDW -
4 Newcastle	24		+19	WOODW
5 Wimbledon	22	38	+8	LWDLL
S Chokes	23	38	+4	WDWLW -
5 Wimbledon 6 Chelsea 7 Aston Villa Besharijad Wed	24	36	Ŧ6:	: 4: BDOLL
Richaffield Wed	23	34	-1	CENTER
Teeds	24	29	-6	LLWWU
Septement	24	29	<u>-8</u> `	DWD
13 Covertry 15 Derby	24	. 28	-6	1110
13 10 2	23	27	-9:	CHILD THE
14 Covertiv	24	- 26	10	WOLLW.
15 Derby	23	25	-7	עוטע
16 Blackburn		- 24	. 0	DAMACIT
16 Blackburn 17 Notan Forest	24	- 23	-15	TANAMAT -
18 West Harp		- 22	-11	- William
17 Nomin Forest 18 West Harp 19 Southampton 21 Talkidesbrout	22	_ 20	В	ANTAKD.
20 f Middlesbrout	<u> 23</u>	18	- 34	TALLIM
#Miritiesb	rough diff	gled	tree	Donne :

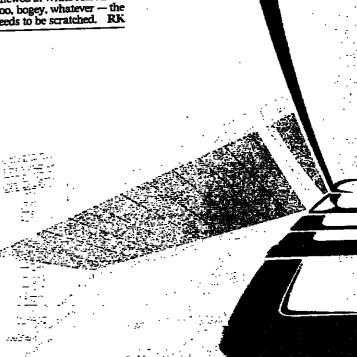
SOUTHAMPTON

After their Coca-Cola Cup exit at the hands of Stockport, Southampton now enjoy the time-honoured luxury of "concentrating on the league" - as if the visit to Old Trafford today is not in itself sufficiently mind-concentrating. Maik Taylor, the goalkeeper, cup-tied on Wednesday, returns after keeping Southampton's only clean sheet away from home at Middlesbrough. Neil Moss, pushed down to third choice for the No I jersey, has been loaned to Gillingham for the rest of the season. NS

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Those of a nostalgic persuasion at Tottenham will recall the day at Stamford Bridge in 1990 when Chelsea were beaten 2-1. Such sweet memories. Since that glorious occasion, at the turn of the decade, the good

and great of north and west London have met l6 times ... and Tottenham have failed to win 16 times. Chelsea have won eight, drawn eight, and should start as favourites when rivalry is renewed at White Hart Lane today. Jinx, hoodoo, bogey, whatever — the seven-year itch needs to be scratched. RK



WEST HAM UNITED

With so much unrest at Upton Park, West Ham may not be too unhappy at resuming their bid for survival on the road. Blackburn Rovers, who were bottom of the Premiership when West Ham beat them in October, have shown how quickly things can change. "Their recovery is down to hard work." Mike Newell, the former Rovers striker now on loan in east London, said. He scored against West Ham in this fixture last year; a first goal for his new club would not

WIMBLEDON

Although Chris Perry did not make the England squad (despite a glowing reference from Alex Ferguson), Neil Sullivan, the goalkeeper, will join Wimbledon's growing list of internationals when Craig

Brown names his Scotland squad on Monday. Despite rumours of a takeover bid by Celtic, the rest of the club will probably not be following him north of the border just yet. Ardley and Jones hope to be fit to face Middlesbrough as Wimbledon look for their first Premiership win of 1997.

Reports: Brian Glanville, Peter Bell, Russell Kempson, Richard Hobson, Nick Szczepanik, Kelth Pike, David Maddock, Statistics; Julian Desborough

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ASTON VILLA V SUNDERLAND

TICKETS: Seats available 10-YEAR RECORD: --, --, --, S-0, --, --, --, --

HOW THEY LINE UP ASTON VILLA (from): M. Bosnich, F. Nelson, A. Wright, C. Tiler, U. Ehiogu, R. Scirneca, S. Corclo, S. Steunton, G. Southgate, D. Yorke, S. Milosevic, J. Joachim, G. Parrelly, D. Hughes, L. Hendrie, S. Murray, M. Osboro

SUNDERLAND (from): L. Perez, G. Half, R. Ord, A. Melville, D. Kubicki, D. Kelly, P. Bracewell, D. Williams, M. Grey, A. Rae, C. Russell, M. Smith, J. Eriksson, S. Aiston, D. Preece, P. Hackingbottom.



5

LEEDS UNITED V ARSENAL



TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: -, -, -, -, 22, 22, 3-0, 2-1, 1-0, 0-8. HOW THEY LINE UP LEEDS UNITED (from): N Martyn, R Molariaar, G Halle, D Weitherall, L Radebe, G Kelly, C Palmer, L Bowyer, M Jackson, A Dorigo, R Waltace, B Deane, I Rush, I Harte, M Ford, P Beesley, M Beeney.

ARSENAL (from); D Seamen, L Dison, M. Rose, A Adems, S Bould, N Winterburn, R Parlour, P Vietra, S Hughes, 1 Wright, P Merson; S Marshell, S Morrow, J Hertson, I Selley, P Shaw, J Lukic.



CHAMPIONSHIP BETTING Evens: Manchester United, 3-1: Liverpool, 9-2: Areenel, 5-1: Newcas United, 12-1: Chelses, 40-1: Aston Villa and Wimbledon



WEST HAM UNITED



10-YEAR RECORD: --, --, 5-4, 3-1, --, --, 0-2, 4-2, 4-2. HOW THEY LINE UP

BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): T Flowers, J Kenna, H Berg, C Hendry: G la Saux, T Sherwood, G Flitcroft, L Bohinen, J Wilcox, C Sutton, K Gallacher, G Donis, N Marker, W McKinlay, P Warhurst, S Given.

WEST HAM UNITED (from): I. Miklosko, T Breacker, M Rieper, S Blic, J Dicks, D Williamson, I Bishop, M Hughes, K Rowland, M Newell, H Portirio, S Dones, F Lampard, S Lazaridis, R Ferdinand, M Bowen, I Spaler, S Done



MANCHESTER UNITED V SOUTHAMPTON TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 5-1, 0-2, 2-2, 2-1, 3-2, 1-0, 2-1, 2-0, 2-1, 4-1. HOW THEY LINE UP

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P Schmeichel, M Clegg, G Neville, G Palieter, D Irwin, D Beckham, R Keane, P Scholes, R Giggs, E Cantone, O G Solskjær, A Cole, B McClair, K Potiorsky, C Casper,

SOUTHAMPTON (from): M Taylor, U van Gobbel, R Dryden, K Monkou, A Neilson, N Maddison, M Oakley, J Magilton, M le Tissier, E Berkovic, E Ostersted, S Charlton, C Lundekvam, D Hughes, M Robinson, S Besham, D Beasant.



WIMBLEDON V MIDDLESBROUGH



: 10-YEAR RECORD: --, --, 1-1, --, --, 2-0, --, --, 0-0 HOW THEY LINE UP WIMBLEDON (from): N. Sullivan, K. Curningham, A. Kimble, D.Blackwell, O.Leonhardsen, R. Earle, E. Elooku, D.Höldsworth, M.Gayle, J.Goodman, C. Perry, D. Jupp, P. Fear, B. McAllister, M. Harford, V. Jones, N. Ardley, B. Murphy.

MIDDLESBROUGH (from): G Walsh, B Roberts, C Flerning, N Cox, S Vickers, G Festa, D Wryte, V Kinder, R Mustoe, Emerson, Juninho, C Blackmore, A Moore, M Beck, P Stamp, P Whelen.



DERBY COUNTY V LIVERPOOL



10-YEAR RECORD: --, 1-1, 0-1, 0-3, 1-7, --, --, --, --, --, HOW THEY LINE UP DERBY COUNTY (from): R Houtt, J Laursen, P McGrath, G Rowett, L Carsley, R van der Laan, A Asanovic, P Trollope, C Powell, R Willems, D Sturridge. D Powell, M Teylor, P Sunpson, M Ramberg, S Plynn.

LIVERPOOL (from): D James, J McAteer, B Kvarme, M Wright, P Balob, S1 Bjornebye, S McManaman, J Bernes, M Thomas, P Berger, S Collymore, R Fowler, J Redforapp, J Carragher, R Jones, A Warner.



SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY **y COVENTRY CITY**

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-2, 0-3, 1-2, 0-0, --. 1-1, 1-2, 0-0, 5-1, 4-3. HOW THEY LINE UP SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): K Pressman, M Clarke, P Atherton, D Stefanovic, S Cakes, D Walker, I Notan, S Nicol, G Whitingham, G Hyde, M Pembridge, R Birnker, R Humphreys, A Booth, W Collins, R Jones, O Trustfull, B Carbone, J Newsome.

COVENTRY CITY (from): S Ogrizovic, R Shaw, P Williams, P Telfer, E Jess, G McAtister, J Salako, N Whelan, K Richardson, B Borrows, J Filan, W Boland, G Strachan, A Willis, S Shaton, D Huckerby.



NEWCASTLE UNITED V LEICESTER CITY

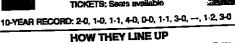
10-YEAR RECORD: 2-0, --, --, 5-4, 2-1, 2-0, 7-1, --, 3-1, --.

HOW THEY LINE UP NEWCASTLE UNITED (from): S Histop, S Watson, R Effect, D Peacock, P Albert, D Batty, R Lee, K Gillespie, D Ginole, P Beardsley, A Shearer, L Ferdinand, F Asprilla, L Clark, W Barton, J Berestord, P Smirak, R Kitson.

LEICESTER CITY (from): K Keller, S Grayson, N Lewis, J Lawrence, C Hill, S Prior, M Elliott, J Wetts, M Izzel, G Perker, S Taylor, S Campbell, S Wilson, E Heskey, I Marshall, M Robins, S Claridge, K Poole.



EVERTON v NOTTINGHAM FOREST TICKETS: Seats available



EVERTON (trom): P Gerrard, E Barrett, T Phetan, C Short, D Watson, D Unsworth, G Stuart, J Parlánson, A Grant, D Ferguson, M Branch, N Barmby, N Southall, R Dunne, M Hottiger, G Speed, P Rideout.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (trom): M Crossley, D Lyttle, S Pearce, C Cooper, S Chettle, C Barl-Williams, D Philips, A I Hazkand, I Woan, N Clough, K Campbell, C Altan, B Roy, D Saunders, J Lee, S Germmill, S Guinen, P McGregor, J Busns, Fettis.



TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR y CHELSEA

TICKETS: Sold out 10-YEAR RECORD: 1-3, 1-0, ---, 1-4, 1-1, 1-3, 1-2, 1-1, 0-0, 1-1 HOW THEY LINE UP TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (trom): ! Welker, S Campbell, C Wilson, D Howells, D Anderton, R Fox, A Sirton, R Rosenthal, S Carr. S Nethercott, J Edinburgh, E Baardson, A Nielsen, R Allen, D Austin,

CHELSEA [from): K Hitchcock, S Clarke, F Leboeut, F Sinctair, D Petrescu, D Wise, R ds Matteo, E Newton, S Minto, G Zola, M Hughes, G Vialil, R Guilli, A Myers, P Hughes, E Johnsen, F Grodas,

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

BBC1 Match of the Day 10.45pm (including extended highlights of Derby County v Liverpool and Leeds United v Arsenal)

Fomogroff

Sky Sports 1 Goals on Sunday 11.00am

Sky Sports 1 Newcastle United v Leicester City 3.00pm (live)

The official internet site of the FA Carting Premiership

RACING

Coome Hill can take giant step towards summit

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

A WEEKEND brimful with Cheltenham Festival clues on both sides of the Irish Sea begins at Sandown this afternoon with Coome Hill attempting to enhance his position in the Gold Cup pecking order.

The Walter Dennis-trained winner of the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup has not raced since his magnificent victory at Newbury nine weeks ago and faces a tough task as he attempts to give weight away to five rivals in the Agfa Diamond Chase (1.50).

The going at the Esher track has been a worry all week for Dennis but, after talking with Jamie Osborne, he decided Coome Hill should take his chance. "It is not so fast as it was when he won at Wincanton and they climb up a hill when they get to the business end of the race. which helps. One has reservations, but he needs a run and I can't see this weather relenting." the Devon permit-holder

said yesterday. "I am reasonably happy with him. Obviously it is long time since he's raced but he has done some good work for me at home, although he is not the sort to burn up the gallops. You have to do as much as you can to get him fit and we have

done our best." Major Summit, who also holds a Gold Cup entry, is unquestionably best in at the weights judged on his third to Mr Mulligan at Ascot last season - and a liberal interpretation of this season's efforts. If the Josh Giffordtrained runner avoids the jumping errors which have cost him two victories this term - and copes with today's faster surface - he will go very close. But they are big

"ifs" in this class of race. Go Ballistic seems to save his best for Ascot and although Dextra Dove bounced back to form at Kempton 15 days ago this is a tougher assignment. Avro Anson ran a blinder behind Jodami and

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: TARRS BRIDGE (2.25 Sandown Park) Next best: Full Of Oats (2.15 Chepstow)

Unguided Missile at Haydock a formight ago when he was not 100 per cent fit. First past the post in the 1994 Stayers' Hurdle, Maurice Camacho's runner is still lightly raced over fences and open to further improvment. He relishes fast going so should give his

However, I cannot desert Coome Hill, a progressive chaser who is open to further improvement and is probably one of the best jumpers of fences in training. His surefootedness could make all the difference, especially when it

comes to tackling the tricky railway fences at Sandown. While punters may be wise to watch rather than have a wager in the Gold Cup trial. they should not hesitate to step in smartly this morning and help themselves to the doublefigure odds (12-1 with Victor Chandler) being offered against Tarrs Bridge in the Tote Bookmakers Sandown Handicap Hurdle (2.25).

Charlie Mann's former Irish point-to-point winner has won three of his four starts over hurdles this term but it was his victory at Cheltenham seven weeks ago, when equipped with blinkers for the first time, that makes him a betting proposition today.
In a grade two race, where

five of his rivals had won their previous start, the six-year-old won easily in a fast time. Tarrs Bridge holds Sun Alliance Hurdle and Stayers' Hurdle entries and Mann, who could have gone for a much easier race at Chepstow today, said: "We honestly don't know how good he is. He runs well fresh and is in cracking form. I should have put the blinkers on him earlier. He thinks he has done enough when he hits the front - he's not naughty. Tullymurry Toff and Yahmi

head the opposition but, at the available odds, Tarrs Bridge is outstanding value and can continue the impressive record of second-season horses with a light weight in this



Glitter Isle takes command in the Adventure Novices' Chase at Lingfield yesterday

Full Of Oats can harvest National trial

BBCl

1.15: Plenty of pace here, with General Pershing. Denver Bay, Mariners Mirror. Sound Reveille and the quirky Senor El Betrutti all liking to race prominently— which could tee this up for Bells Life, a course specialist. The winner of all his three starts here, he ran well at Newton Abbot 12 days ago when carrying top weight, after a disappointing effort at Lingfield. Denver Bay is well weighted but would prefer softer ground or fur-ther; and Sound Reveille looks a bigger danger.

1.45: Korbell, a multiple point-to-point winner last season, does not look the easiest ride but recorded a fast time when gaining her first win over hurdles at Leicester 18 days ago. However, the victory of the well regarded Hurdante at Leicester II days ago sug-gested there is better to come and the step up to three miles can bring about the necessary improvement.

2.15: Full Of Oats stands out here. A winner of three chases last term, including two ever this distance. Henrietta Knight's useful handi-capper made a pleasing seasonal debut at this track behind Samlee and was running a big race at Kelso 15 days ago before making an uncharacteristic jumping error. With Jim Culloty back on board, he can resume winning ways. Spuffington is consistent but rather onepaced, and Sunley Bay looks

Lingfield Park



ON TELEVISION

SANDOWN **CHANNEL 4**

12.45: Land Afar's defeat of Mister Drum reads well but Paul Webber's horse is far from certain to stay this longer trip. Aardwolf is best judged on his defeat of Major Summit here 53 days ago, but the ground will be plenty fast enough and he is likely to be taken on for the lead by Stately Home. Sim-ply Dashing has won II of his last 13 starts and goes from strength to strength over fences. He will take all

1.20: With the fast ground having prevented the partici-pation of Collier Bay, Relkeel and Mister Morose, the way looks clear for Chief's Song. He will relish today's fast surface and won over course and distance last season. Ground Nut returns after a ten-week absence and probably needs further. Ionio disappointed last week, while Florid is making his hurdling debut.

1.50: See left.

2.25: See left. RICHARD EVANS

3.00 RIPLEY JUVENILE MOVICES HURDLE

12.2 16.1 15.0 14.3 12.3

SANDOWN PARK 1.50 AGFA DIAMOND CHASE ade II: limited handicap: £18,714: 3m 110yd) (6 runnars) 1/12-111 COOME HILL IS 6-6.5. (Micr.) Dennis N Dennis 5-11-12.
12/12-5.3 AVRO MISSON 14 (D.F.G) (B Serion) N Centacho 9-11-6
12/12-5.3 DENTIRA DOVE 15 (C.D.F.C.S) (Micr.) Dennis 1/5-14-15-14-15-14-15 (D.F.C.S) (Micr.) Encountry 1 G Shea 8-11-6
14121 GO BALLISTIC 42 (D.F.C.S) (Micr.) Encountry 1 G Shea 8-11-6
1113-422 MARCH STUMMT 56 (D.F.C.S) (4 Wester) 3 GARD 8-11-13
R9011-3 (DOMINICAN MUIC 49 (F.G.S) (Microson hide Farrers) 37 Salari 12,45 Aardwolf 3.00 Belmarita 1.20 Florid 3.30 Certainly Strong 1,50 MAJOR SUMMIT (nap) 4.05 Riding Crop 1996: AMTRAK EXPRESS 9-10-7 to A Pargeraia (11-2) % Henderson 3 as The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: FORM FOCUS 12.45 SIMPLY DASHING. COORE HILL beat the Grey Month 41 in 17-insurer goals I Hennessy Cognas. Gold Cop at Newbury 13m 2f 110yds, good) with DEXTRA DOVE (11th better off) 23% 59 in AVRIO ARSON about 51 fad of 6 to Johann in goals if Peter Mariy Limited Hamfoot Chase at Haybook /3m good to farm DEXTRA DOVE beat Palay's Woody 3f in 5-insurer tendicap chase at Nempton 15m, good to farm OD Hamfoot Chase at Nempton 15m, good to farm SO BALLISTIC beat Unguided Micsile 134 in 9-insurer. GOING, GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES)

12.45 SCILLY ISLES NOVICES CHASE (Grade I: £21.862: 2m 4l 110yd) (7 runners) PPP-113 AAROWOLF 37 (C.BF.C.S) (Lary Camilla Deopoles) C Brooks 5-11-6 G Bradley 95
501-2-24 AMBER WALLEY 27F (S) (Behstore Components) D Williams 6-11-6 A Thomkin 53
45D-FIF GROOVING 9 (C.S) (Mr. 18 brown 1 Gehord 8-11-6 P News 71
4-12-221 LAND AFAR 14 (F.B.S) (1 Forci) P Webber (1-11-6 1-1-6 BETTING: 5-4 Samply Discharg, 7-2 Land Alar 4-1 Aurohool 6-1 Misster Dram, 10-1 Geocyclig 12-1 Skitsky Home 50-1 Amber Valley

1996: SENOR EL BETRUTTI 7-11-6 G Bradley (11-2) Mrs S Nock 6 ran FORM FOCUS

AARDWOLF 14() 3nd of 5 to Djeddalt is grade I
Feltham Honoccs Chaze at Kemplon (3m. good to
furm)
State VALLEY 9: 2nd of 7 to Rever Leven in
nouse francicap chase at Humbingdon (2m. 110)ds.
could be soft on perulifinate starl
STRODUNING beat Coast Master head in 12-number
nouse chase at Exeter (2m. 21, 2011) on perulifinate

STRODUNING beat Coast Master head in 12-number
nouse chase at Exeter (2m. 21, 2011) on perulifinate

State VALLEY DASHING
STATELY HOME neat Strong Readings of the coast of

1.20 AGFA HURDLE (£10,163; 2m 110yd) (6 numers) 3P4-165 CHRF'S SONG 14 (CD.F.G) (Mr. 1 Derreit S Don 7-11-4 R Dummody S 411-3-55 GROUND MIT 71 (D.F.S) (Mr. 1 Nephral R Budbar 7-11-0 P Hotoly S 124 Korker (D.G.) (Mr. 1 Nephral R Budbar 7-11-0 J R Kavaraga 81 00 DAUNT 11 (Superral Ind. F brotan 5-10-9 A Thombon F HURDO 94F flord Huwad de Walten) C Boods 6-10-9 B Bradley 212F32 OOURLE SYMPHOMY 282 (D.G.S) (A Pre-Jeary) C Brocks 9-10-4 J Osborne — BETTING: 9-4 Double Symphony, 5-2 Chief's Song, 4-1 Franc, 6-1 Davra, 7-1 Ground Nut. 10-1 knew 1996, ATDLAS 8-11-8 R Dusheochy (8-11 km; D Stanoth 5 ran FORM FOCUS

CHREF'S SONG best recent effort best Ylarm Spett
11 in 5-maner burdle at Perspiton (2m. good to
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BETTING, 11-4 Yahng 7-2 Judymany Tolt 8-1 Yans Bridge Erzeler 15-1 Yuraway Pete Locksegram Cidsol. 14-1 Offices. 1996: TRANSLOT 9-11-1 R Durancely (6-1-) Fittperate 14 ran FORM FOCUS BURNAT MAP heat Crystal Gift 2's1 in 10-mans handstap bundle at Ayr (2m 41 good) on penulin-nate start FRED BARTH heat Call My Saes 10 in 10 in 15 Storm in Text Capt name at Company White Handstap hands at Kenton (2m 51 ond to 6m), TULLYMARRY TOPF beat Call My Saes 11 in 15 TARTS BROOKE beat Southern Meghs 61 B in 5-numer handscap hands at Unionese 10 in 11 in 15 TARTS BROOKE beat Southern Meghs 61 in 5-numer handscap hands at Unionese 10 in 11 in 15 TARTS BROOKE beat Southern Meghs 61 in 5-numer handscap hands at Market COURSE SPECIALISTS Rides 90 31 180 31 75 73 TRAINERS P Nichalls
D Nichalson
Mrs. M. Reveley
R Hodges
J Old
S Dow 35 7 34 9 25 3 25 1 21 9 21 7 R Commedia S Martin J Cotome P Hote P Hote S Brate;

(Grade III: £27,700, 2m 6f) (13 runners)

3.30 ELMBRIDGE HANDICAP CHASE (£6,440: 2m) (5 runners) Long handicap: Wee River 9-10, Certainly Strong 9-9, Hosgehopper 8-5 BETTING: 13-8 Gales Cavoler 15-8 Super Tachos, 11-4 Centainly Strong, 9-2 Wee River. 1996: HIGH BARON 9-10-13 R Dunwoody (6-1) R Hodges 9 ra

4.05 FEBRUARY MAIDEN HURDLE (£3.087; 2m 6f) (11 runners) 1007: 211 Of (17 Interests)

15. APICTIC TRUMPH 68 (C) (10 Holman) M Badatock, 6-11-7

6. CAMERIA MAN 413 (Mrs.P. Stem) N Housesson 7-11-7

1. JR Kananagh, 88

12-405 COUNTRY TAROURY 14 (Mrs.C. Sames) R Hodges 5-11-7

R Dunwoody 91

1-25 DAMECTIL/DUDRICH Fill (6) D Midster) P Hodges 5-11-7

R Dunwoody 91

1-25 DAMECTIL/DUDRICH Fill (6) D Midster) P Hodges 5-11-7

L Harmey 98

10- CRAHAMA PROJE 716 (5) (1 Sames) R Bester 7-11-7

10- CRAHAMA PROJE 716 (5) (1 Sames) N Bester 7-11-7

10- CRAHAMA PROJE 716 (5) (1 Holman) 6 Holbert 6-11-7

10- CRAHAMA PROJE 716 (7) (1 Sames) N Bester 7-11-7

10- CRAHAMA PROJE 716 (7) (1 Sames) N Bester 7-11-7

10- CRAHAMA PROJE 716 (7) (1 Sames) N Bester 7-11-7

10- CRAHAMA PROJE 716 (7) (1 Sames) N Bester 7-11-7

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10- CRAHAMA PROJE 716 (7) (1 Sames) N Bester 7-11-7

10- CRAHAMA PROJE 716 RETTING: 7-2 Camera Man. 4-1 Ridging Crop. 9-2 Grantem Finds, 6-1 Dancet/Ryouthrop, 8-1 El Fredelle, 10-7 Lond Analice: 12-1 Blazing Miscale: 14-1 states: 1996: WEIATTABOB 7-11-7 IS A Fitzgarald (2-1) II Honderson 20 ran

Fitzgerald injures ankle

MICK FITZGERALD will be out for up to ten days after cracking a small bone in his ankle in a last-fence fall from Conquering Leader at Folkestone on Thursday. Fitzgerald will miss the rides on Go Ballistic in the Agfa Diamond Chase at Sandown today and Belmont King in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown tomorrow.

CHEPSTOW

1.15 Bells Life 1.45 Destin D'Estruval

2.15 Full Of Oals

2.50 Urban Lily 3.20 Indian Tracker

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

1.15 BBC CEEFAX AND MARCIA-ANN COOPER HANDICAP CHASE (\$7,555* 2m 3t 110yd) (11 runners) BBC1 DICAP CHASE (\$7.555 2m 31 110yd) (11 runners)
3PP-475 SOUND REVELLE 14 (\$.51 Mrs. 6 Accessor 6 Brooks 3-12-0
312432 General, Presiment 655 (\$.65, 11 Potent 10 Blockson 11-12-0
PIS-973 SERUR 8. BETRUTTI 15 (D.F. 6,51 14 Potent 10 Blockson 11-12-1
PIS-981 SERUR 94 (\$) (8 Nombro) 10 Ppc 11-11-6
112-163 SELIS UPE 12 https://doi.org/10.11-11-6
112-163 SELIS UPE 12 https://doi.org/10.11-11-16
310-453 DENMER RAY 36 (\$) (8 Nogal 1 Catent 10-10-12
PI1-990 SOUNDERS DEST 49 (COLF 6,5) (0 Nombroys) (5 Moore 3-10-8
220-93 COMIT DESTINAN, 42 (D.F. 6) (8 Nogal 6 Salong 7-10-6
1435-5 SEEK THE FATH 61 (\$) SES (4 Batters) 14 Seetgard 6-10-0
33-134P SENSAMM LANCESTER 12 (C.G.S) (5 Griffin 14 Sectio 12-10-0
8

BETTRIC. 5-2 Manner, Minter, 5-1 Countil Reseale 6-1 Bells Life, 7-1 Deriver Bay, Costs D Estimat. 8-1 Terao, 10-1 General Persium, 12-1 others. 1996. MEETING ABANCONED — PROST FORM FOCUS

SOUND PROVELLE 31 5th of 5 to Konselta King or translating chart. At Hardock Chn., good to larm, 55NOR BL BETHUTTI 31 and of 7 to Super Tacces in textuces chart at the best DEWER BAY (1300 in Extraor chart at Venetical Form to Super Tacces in the State of the Super Tacces in the State of th COURSE SPECIALISTS

JOCKEYS TRAINFRS 31 3 D Bridgester 27 G G Tomey 25 7 G Llewellyn 21 9 G Mazaki 21 1 R Johnson D Histolson 13 Page P Histols J Old P Histolls

☐ Jim Culloty returns at Chepstow today after four months off with a broken ankle. Culloty, last season's leading amateur, has been booked to ride Menesonic for Robert Alner in the Prestige Novices' Hurdle and Full Of Oats for Henrictta Knight in the John Hughes Grand National Trial.

المعتبين والمراجع والمراجع

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD 113143 G000 TIMES 13 (GF.F.G.S) (Unit 0 For North 2 Holl 12 A Racticand number. Sur-figure form (F = left P = publed up 11 = constanted index 8 = brought down S = stopped up 8 = returned. U = form that G = good S = soft, good to soft coupling in the Barriers V = visor 4 = soft G = good S = soft, good to soft the surface of the soft S = freshold. C = coupra writer 0 = declares writted = CO = coupra and discarse Pr. sile trackscapper's taking.

2.25 TOTE BOOKMAKERS SANDOWN HANDICAP HURDLE

1.45 PRESTIGE NOVICES HURDLE | Clade | 19,915 3m | 11 miners | 11 miners | 11 miners | 12 miners | 13 miners | 14 miners | 15 miner

FORM FOCUS

EDISEMOOR PRINCE best Specify Said 8 in 7runner Eigher handleich handlei (2m. 8) heavy)
runner Eigher handleich handlei (2m. 8) heavy)
YOUNG KEINNY heat Monderen mich in 17-minner
rich start. BEST OF FRIENOS for 2 and 6 ? 15
Specialing Special in Windows nonce handle (2m. 6)
Specialing Special in Windows nonce handle (2m. 6)
SESTA OF STRUMAL vible worze only heat 3rd
RAMSELL, heat Flying Garner cach in 14-minner
Levelier month handle (2m. 6)
SOUTHY best Determinercation 41 in 16-minner
Selection: MERIOANTE 2.15 JOHN HUGHES GRAND NATIONAL TRIAL BBC1

SETTING, 7-2 Hundards, 9-2 Declin O'Estrukal, 5-1 Kartielk, 6-1 Europy, 7-1 Yaung Karay, 10-1 Best Of Friends, Edgemoor Prince, 12-1 Gilners

(Handicap chase, £10,202, 3m 5f 110yd) (2 runners;

Long bandiese Distitution 7-10 BETTING 9-4 Full Of Data 7-2 Datyers Boy 4-1 Scotlamore, 9-1 Series Bay 7-1 See Everyth, 12-1 Haberton, 14-1 others. FORM FOCUS

والمستحصيط يهز المستحدال الشارية أراد والمتار فيتنا المتار الماري الماري الماري الماري الماري الماري

2.50 PRACHERS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,192, 2m 110yd) (17 runners)

BETTING: 4-1 Line Street Black, 5-1 Mode, 6-1 Fordardys, 7-1 Urban Lity, 8-1 Little Hookspan, Safle-A-Pose 10-1 Horer So Stue: 12-1 offers

3.20 TONY PRESTON ASPIRING CHAMPIONS NOVICES CHASE (25,412 3m) (12 runners)

4.12 SMT) (12 THITTERS)

4.11F-11 BARRONET 71 (D.F.G.S.) (Mrs. D. Tresuns; on) D. Nicholson 7-11-11 ... R. Johnson 81 20:22-11 BERNOE NOT TO 50 (D.F.G.S.) (G. Addressen) D. Starwood 8-11-11 ... J. A. MicCarthy (M. 6050-21 POLOSPROKER STAR 48 (D.S.) (Food Breiser, Lich) J. Gifford 7-11-11 ... L. Asped (3) 92 ... I CRESO) IS KING 56 (G) (G. Potton) P. Wickher 7-11-7 ... A. Thormson 81 USS-1-1 REGINAL THANKER 41 (S) (7 & J. Richards 14 Peps 1-11-7 ... C. Manuch 86 ... P.P.) DEXTRA 64 (Desta Lighton Stelland; S. Earle 7-11-2 ... S. Govern 9-5-1252 ... ARRIAL CANALER 12 (S) (Mrs. G. Listi N. Smith 9-11-2 ... J. Rigan 1200-PP ... MAJURI NOVA 67 (6.5) (Mrs. G. Listi N. Smith 9-11-2 ... J. Rigan 1200-PP ... DESTAR 64 (Mrs. A. Lighton) P. Protest 8-11-2 ... J. Rigan 9-1000-PP ... PROMEDIE 18 (Mrs. A. Lighton) P. Protest 8-11-2 ... Lighton 9-10-12 ... Mrs. G. Lighton BETTRIFE 3-1 Bounds for To 5-1 Barrant, Temessee Tong, 6-1 Indian Tracker, 8-1 Credo is King, Foodbruke Star Assists Counter 12-1 Callers

3.55 GAMEKEEPERS HANDICAP HURDLE (\$3,716 2m 110yd) (15 runners)

(53,716 2m 110yd) (15 numbers)

661 2-61000 BREAMS BIO 14 (U.F.C.S.) (7 Phree) P Boren 9-12-0

R Farrant ES

662 2650-05 KONSTROT 7 (D.S.) (8 Palen) 8 Dicks 7-11-12

X Appure (7) 96

603 53224-1 WHITE WILLOW 22F W.U.F.C.S. (F Surger) 1 Wall 8-11-9

804 211650- BRANE (DRIMDO 900 (D.S.) (Max 5 B Surger) 6 Ballang E-11-9

805 6051-00 PIOS CASTLE 14 (D.G.S.) (Max 8 Dickson) 8 Hodges 6-11-8

J Hants (7)

605 1051-00 PIOS CASTLE 14 (D.G.S.) (Max 8 Dickson) 8 Hodges 6-11-8

J Hants (7)

607 02162-6 SLEIN MAN 45 (D.S.) (8 Najarnel) M Page 8-11-5

608 4251-4 COURT MAP 25F, (D.G.) (5 Najarnel) 10 Page 8-11-4

809 4251-4 COURT MAP 25F, (D.G.) (5 Najarnel) 10 Page 10 Page 10 Page 10 Page 10 Page 10 Page 11 Page 10 Page 1 Long Nandscap Rices Island 9-10, Permymour Prece 9-9 Mandate 9-7

Going: good, good to soft in place carrier, stock, grout to start in paces. 1.30 (2m 31 10yd India) 1, Cheenful Aspect. IN Williamson, S-1) 2, Eta Agapi Mou (33-1): 3, Pleasureland (7-1), Red Rap 15-8 fav. 13 ran 101, 2 T Forsite. Tote: £3-30, £3.00, £3.50, £1.90 DF £457-40 The £25.10, (part work, pool of £13-56 carried forward to £50 at Chepstow today). CSF £145.90. 2.00 (2m 110yd hdie) 1, Script (J Osborne 5-1), 2, Sightly Special (6-1); 3, Kentavata Way (14-1). Glowing Path 9-4 (av. 8 ran NR E1 70, £1.70, £1.90. DF. £10.50 Tno £79.90 (part won; pool of £15.77 carried lorward to £.50 at Chepstow today) CSF £32.55. Tnoast £351.26

Incast: 1251.25 2.30 (2m chi 1, Gitter tale (P Hide, 13-2); 2. Gardo (11-2); 3, As Ou Trefle (14-1) Teinein 9-4 (sv. (f) 11 ren. NF. Windserd Arlom. 2; 5; J Gittort, Tote, 05-59, 12: 00, 12: 30, 04: 40. DF: 128.20 Tro: 190 80, CSF, 128 74 3.00 (2m 110)d hdle) 1, Three Farthings (C Llewellyn, 13-8 law, Richard Evens'a nap); 2. Mutanassib (4-1); 3, Magic Combination (7-2) 10 ran. NR. Red River. 2), 61. J Old Tole: 22.50, \$1.30, \$1.50, \$1.60, \$DF: \$5.60, Trio £16.10, \$CSF: £8.49

130 (3m chi 1, Ghventime (L. Harvey, 7-2 lav); 2, A N C. Bypress (4-1); 3, Plestic Spaceage (8-1), 10 ran 2, 4l, A Turnell, fole £460, £120. E160, £360. E160. E77.80. Tricast £97.36. 100 (25 %). (27 %) (17 %) (18 %) (27 %) (28

130 (2m 3f 110)rd hale) 1, Tickerty's Gift (M Atwester, 9-2); 2, Shapherds Rest (11-4); 3, Daily Sport Garl (12-1). Friendly House 5-2 lev 6 ran 8t. 7f. G. Micore Tote 25.00; \$1.90, £1.80. DF. \$2.60 CSF; £15.77 Jecipot: not won (pool of £5.24.43 carried loreard to Chepster Inday). Placepot: £307.40. Ouedpot: £19.60.

Catterick Bridge

Going: good good to fam in places 1.40 (3m hole) 1. Russeun Rascal (P Neen 5-1;: 2 J J Battoo (5-2 law;: 3 Arabara Heights (25-1) 19 nat. NR Fort Walenska, Respecting 8t, 14t, T Easterby, Tote 15-50; 52-50, 57 10, 571 10. DF: 57-90. The 5107 80 CSF, 515 37. x, sur au Corr. 1.13 37. 2.10 (3m 11 110)d chi 1. Tico Gold (A.S. Smith, 6-4 fau); 2. The Bird O'Donnell (13-8); 3. Milles Image (20-1), 5 ran 1/3), dist, P. Cheestrough, Tole 51.90; 53.90, £1.10. DF 53.90 CSF 53.94 2.40 (2m 3f holle) 1, Spritzer (F Leahy, 5-1); 2, Take Cover (12-1); 3, Nordic Prince (5-1) Andrine 5-2 law 15 can NR Redwood Lad 11, 3m) 3 Fizzgerald Take £5 10; £2 50; £2.30, £1.90, DF: £28.00 Trey £19.00 CSF £59.25

231.6 (2m 31 hdie) 1. Yacha Club (C Elliott, 10-11.2 Jeannach G-11. 3. Saymbre (4-1 p-lay) in A Moment 4-1 p-lay 14 ran 11. 31 J Eyre Tolor 21.2 50, 123.0, 129, 02. 44. 60 F-270 60 Tolor 21.3 10.00 CSF, 1210.0.21 Tricast 2402 19 ner 11000 CSF 110021 fricast gaz 19 2.40 (2m 3f ch) 1. Westver George (M Moloney, 11-8 fzv) 2. Tim Soldier (8-4), 3, Twin Fells (5-2), 4 ran NR Aljeder, Shahyam 2, 251 W Storey, Tote: £270. DF, £2.60 CSF £4.77 ur. to: 00 CSF: £4.77 4.10 (3m) 110yd bdlet 1, Titly (f Eley, 8-4 law): 2, Soloman Springs (8-1), 3, High Perhowe (7-1), 5 ran, 81, 111 A Streets: Tole, 21.90; £1.50, £1.30 DF: £20.00 CSF: £10.90 Placepot £71.50 Quadpot £34.50. Placepot £119.80. Quadpot £100.80.

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Southwell (AW, first race 2.00), Fontwell Park (1.40), Newcastle (1.50). TUESDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 150), Carlisie (1.40), Warwick (130) WEDNESDAY: Wolverhampton (AW, 160), Ascot (BBC, 130), Ludlow (140) THURSDAY: Lingfield Park (AW. 1.50), Humingdon (1.30), Kelso (1.45), Wincarton (1.40) FRIDAY: Southwell (AW, 2.10), Bangor (1.45), Newbury (1.30), Towossier (1.55), SATURDAY: Lingfield Park (AW. 2.15), Awr. (1.00), Catlenck. II 30). Newbury (SBC, 1.15), Unoxess (C4, 1.40)

Flat meetings in bold

120 220 RISH FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

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(ur), 9 ran. 8(, 1). M Pipe, Tole 26 40; E2: £1.20, £1.70. DF: £40.70 Trio: £41 CSF £31.58 Tricast £107.76 2.45 (2m 11 hdle) 1, D'Naan (C Maude, 100-30), 2, Afriapa (4-1); 3, Ultimate Smoothie (3-1 tay) 8 ran. 2, 81 M Pipa. Tote: 53 00; 51.60, 51 10, 51 70 DF 52 2U CSF, 516 33, Tricast; 540 05.

CSF. £16.33. Tricast: £40 Gs.
3.15 (2m 3f 110yd hdis) 1. Atavistic (7 Descombe, 2-1 fav); 2. Over The Water (33-1); 3. Charlie Parrot (3-1); 10 ran. NP-Unising, 9, 334 C Popham Tote £2 60, £1 10, £37.70 Tino: £109.30 (part worn, pool of £30 81 carried forward to £50 at Chapstow today) CSF (53.93. 23.53. 3.45 (3m ch) 1, Banntown Bill (D Weish, 3-(fav); 2, Micromo (7-2); 3, Childray Chocolete (6-1) 7 ren 111 (6 M Pripe Tote 53 80; C2.50, C2.60 DF; £10.30 CSF, £13.49.

4.15 (2m)10yd hdle)), Maid Equal (G Supple, 2-1); 2, Mr Strong Gale (Evens fav); 3, Tiger Clew (20-1) 7 ran 11, 191 M Pipe, Tote; 63 10, 62.50, £1 10, DF £2.00 CSF; £4 53.

CSF 28-53.
4.45 (2m 31 110yd hdie) 1, Militaroft Riviera (P Henley, 7-1): 2. Decytorig (13-2), 3, Miss Poor, (8-1) flav (P, 10 zaz. 2). dist. H. Almer. Tote. £9.70, £1 70, £1 10. £1 70. DF £13.70 Thio: £17.40 CSF £45.83. Plecepot: \$43.00. Quadpot: £2.20. Southwell

Going: stendard 1,50 (1m 3t) 1, Head Gardener (T G McLaughin, 7-21; 2, Love Me Do (8-11 law); 3, State Of Gold (20-1), 9 ran 41, 181, N Litimoden Tote £7,70; £2,30, £1 10, £2 40 DF £2.50, Tho: £10.00 CSF; £5,73 2.20 (75 1, Rembo Weazer (7 Scidal, 11-10 lay; 2, Eurolink The Led (13-2); 3, Sandmoor Denim (7-1), 10 rain 11, 141 D Michails, Totar 52.40, 51.40, 52.30, 61.40 DF; £12.80, Tho £20.40, CSF; £8.45. CF: 12:80. 105 : 20.40. Cor : 20 4a. 2.50 (8) 1. Pet Express (L. Chamoci, 11-8 18t); 2. Mealer Foley (6-1); 3. Superchamer (6-1), 8 ran. 3, 194. P Hastern Tota. 92:20; C1.10, ST.50, 92:70 DF: 26:50. CSF: 910.01. Tricast 936:91 2.00 (im) 1. Sea Spouse (N Adams, 11-1): 2. Roussi (5-1): 3. Capitain's Day (7-4). Proto Prins 6-5 fee, 11 art. 41. 54 M Blanshard, Tote: £15 00; £3 40, £3 10, £1 10. DIF £2 90, Thr. £145.60. CSF. £53 99 Tricate; £397 113. 853.99 Tricasts 1391.13.
3.50 (1m 30) 1, Calder King (R Laptin, 5-2 ji-lay); 2, Sarawai (5-2 ji-lay); 3, Mytonitane (7-2), 8 ten, 7, 11, J Eyre Totas (2.30, 52.00, 57: 30, 52.00, 57: 30, 52.00, 57: 30, 52.00, 57: 30, 52.00, 57: 30, 52.00, 57: 30, 52.00, 57: 30, 52.00, 57: 30, 52.00, 57: 30, 52.0

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GO TO A LEADING TRAINER'S TARD

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RACELÎNE 0930 168+ COMMENTARY SANDOWN 101 201 CHEPSTOW 102 202 **WETHERBY 103** 203 STRATFORD 104 204 LINGFIELD 105 205



RACING: CHAMPION CHASER CAN THWART BRITISH RAIDERS AT LEOPARDSTOWN

mperial Call to reign supreme

significant trials for eltenham Festival take t Leopardstown tomorth the highlight being al Call's return to acthe Hennessy Cognac

impressive winner of itenham Gold Cup last Imperial Call has nder a cloud for much past two months after g himself after a heavy his only run of this at Punchestown.

rill need to return to his deal with a strong field includes the British ls, Jodami, The Grey and Belmont King, and er main Irish fancies, Gale and Danoli. signs are encouraging

row's Hennessy Cosold Cup at Leopards-due off at 3.40, will be live on BBC2.

nperial Call will be up task, however. The rear-old impressed in a hurse schooling session I the week. As a result, s shortened up in the nham ante-post market tness is not expected to roblem tomorrow.

is a sharp horse, a il athlete and I'm satishat Fergie Sutherland not be running him he is 100 per cent fit," ial Call's jockey. Conor yer, said yesterday. e fact that he fell at iestown doesn't worry the fences are pretty stiff and he would have got with that anywhere O'Dwyer added. The

three miles at Leopown will suit the likes of - y Gale and Jodami more me but, if my horse is i I wouldn't be too woribout any of them." rdon Richards is more in lark about the relatively posed The Grey Monk tomorrow will be the



Imperial Call clears the last on his way to victory over Rough Quest in last season's Cheltenham Gold Cup

credentials. "It is a hot race but he has to knock at the door this weekend or else he will not go to the Gold Cup. I have no doubts about the trip or his fitness, but I really want some give in the ground," he said.

Similar sentiments are expressed by Paul Nicholls about Belmont King, who has not run since early December when he won impressively at Chepstow. But the most intriguing raider is Jodami. revitalised at Haydock last time and now attempting to gain his fourth success in tomorrow's race.

Peter Beaumont's daughter "Havdock Anthea. said: showed he has retained all his enthusiasm and they broke itive test of his Gold Cup the track record, which shows that he has maintained his speed. Giving 4lb and a head beating to Unguided Missile is good form and we are hoping he can pull it off."

Dorans Pride can confirm his place in the Cheltenham Gold Cup field by beating See More Business in the Scalp

Novices' Chase. His trainer, Michael Hourigan, has stubbornly refused to commit his unbeaten novice to the Gold Cup, although it is Dorans Pride's only Cheltenham entry. However, if he can confirm his length defeat of See More Business at Fairyhouse

3.40 HENNESSY COGNAC GOLD CUP (£59,000: 3m) (8)

BETTING: 11-10 (experial Call, 7-2 The Grey Mont, 5-1 Jodani, 8-1 Decoli, 10-1 Metry Gale, 12-1 Belmont King, 25-1 Idials Venture, 65-1 King Of The Gales. 1996: APPRIAL CALL 7-12-0 C O'Doner M-13 F Sefering 8 can

Nicholls is expecting a big race from See More Business and said: "He ran a bit too free and jumped a bit novicey at Farryhouse, but we were pleased he was able to run all

the way to the line." There should be far less fireworks in the Deloitte and Touche Novices' Hurdle where the Sun Alliance Hurdle favourite, Istabraq, should have a comfortable success en route to Cheltenham. It says much for Aidan

in December then Dorans

Pride is sure to contract fur-

ther in the Gold Cup betting.

O'Brien's domination of this event that Istabraq's two most likely dangers are stable companions, Finnegans Hollow and Liss De Paor.

SIS

Opponents sleighed by Rudolph's rocket fuel

SPORT is a land of whispers: no one can win a race without starting a thousand rumours about performance enhancing drugs. And what is true for human athletes is true for reindeer. Yes, they have decided to introduce drug-testing in the great sport of reindeer racing. With the new season starting next week, at Royaniemi in northern Firland, reindeer drivers have been warned that retribution lies ahead for the owners of

drugged beasts.
The Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute will carry out random blood tests on these fine and speedy animals. They will not be able to use urine tests, as they do in horse racing, because reindeer tend to empty their bladders the moment they cross the finishing line.

Researchers have been studying normal hormone lev-els in reindeer for comparison. One of these, Mauri Neiminen, said that the sport was filled with stories of hoppedup reindeer, but proof was

lacking. Hims have been provided by the premature shedding of antiers, and by sudden and dramatic improvements in performance; interestingly, only one of these is familiar to observers of track and field. I believe a prominent red nose is also considered something of a give-away.



SIMON BARNES





On Saturday

Come off it, sport

Ever wondered where all the loud-mouthed drunks in Australia come from? Well, I have the answer for you - Great Britain. "A lot of yobbos who have been getting onto the field at the Sydney Cricket Ground have been backpackers, often British tourists," Gabrielle Harrison, the New South Wales Minister for Sport, said. "I was disgusted

with some of the behaviour." She plans to pass information on to Scotland Yard so that offenders may be banned from sporting events when they get home. However, it is unclear how many foreign nationals were among those expelled from the ground after the match between Pakistan and West Indies.

At the match in question. there were eight arrests and 90 more people were charged with drunkenness, offensive behaviour, resisting arrest and obstructing the view. And, obviously, this is the work of foreigners — why, the very idea of a drunk Australian is offensive to good sense. ☐ Aurel Rusu is the owner

and patron of an amateur football club in Romania. He has just appointed his son as player-president of the club. Lucian Rusu is six months old. "I want to make my Lucian

a great champion," Rusu père

said. "So I thought the first

enter the world of football as soon as possible."

Snap decision

Diego update: leaving his home at speed in his Porsche. Diego, accompanied by his agent, Guillermo Coppola just released from prison after drug-dealing charges against him were dropped due to lack of evidence), sent a photographer flying. The soft-hearted Diego stopped and told the stricken man that he ought to see a doctor. He then drove off to have a haircut, and dyed blue, violet and gold.

Dirty Dennis

Dennis Rodman, bad boy of American basketball, has also been having a go at photograguilty of kicking a courtside photographer in the groin, suspended for 11 games and ordered to pay the writhing lensman \$200,000 [about £120,000]; he will also lose around \$1.5 million in wages.

This being America, every attention-seeker within range of a camera has had a say on the matter. President Clinton issued a statement saying that he wished Rodman would grow up. Rodman was so delighted by this attention that he has offered to play some games for free. "I believe I owe that much to the Bulls." And the Rev Jesse Jackson has suggested that Rodman's suspension should be reduced on a civil rights plea. Perhaps the photographer should arrested for assaulting Rodman's boot with his testicles.

Religious divide

More on sport and religion. and back to the United States, where they are mad about both. Shawn Bradley, of the New Jersey Nets, was penalised for using profanity. Bradley's coach, John Calipari, said: "He couldn't have sworn. He's a Mormon." Hue Hollins, the referee, said: "I'm a Baptist, and I don't lie."

Fantus misses screen test

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

ideasts all eight races. would have been quite a o for the programme to w Fantus, favourite for :ltenham's Foxhunter ise, making his seasonal ut, but the driest January record means he stays in box. His trainer, Richard ber, walked the course on undsmen for producing tod, fast ground, and while star is a non-runner the ble will take eight to the eting. Brackenfield and

irber in the mixed open.

Carl Evans: 3.45 Cab On Target.

30ING: GOOD

(£3,240: 2m) (25 runners)

WETHERE

.10 Namoodal, 1.40 Chief Minister. 2.10 Purevalue. .40 Down The Fell. 3.15 Celestial Choir. 3.45 Cab In Target. 4.20 Wynyard Knight.

1,10 DEMMY IN WETHERBY NOVICES HURDLE

1 3172 GOLDEN HELLD & CLF.B.S) T Existiny 6-11-13 A S Smith.
2 1-43 CATRLY HAMS 9 (S) J Liegh 7-11-3. A Dobbin
3 50-2 CHEF MANISTER 12 (F.S) M Hammond 8-11-3. B Gardiny
4 16-P COLOMEL IN CHEF 53 IS 6 Relateds 7-11-3. P Gardeny
5 F-P. EXECUTED SIN 7 (F) B hostonell 6-11-3. B Storey
6 00-P WILD GAME 13 Miss 5 Williamson 6-11-3. A Todd (7)

1 P3-5 DESCO DES MOTTES 9 (5) 6 Actimis 6-12-0 P Combeny
2 21-4 TRETAN 42 (5) Lack Herries 5-12-0 Mr R Teornion (5)
3 443 SCOTTON BORRES 14 (C.C.S.) 7 Easterly 8-11-12 B Storey
4 -114 JOCKS CROSS 9 (6) F 5.5) 6 Recents 8-10-11 A Dobbin
5 143 CAMPAICH 36 (7) M Homonod 8-10-7 R Gandly
6 1-34 PUREVALLE 7 (C.S.F.S.S.) M W Easterly 6-10-5 R Gandly
7 19-51 SHARE OFTIONS 14 (C.F.G.) T Easterly 8-10-0 A S South

11-4 Tibelan, 7-2 Share Options, 4-1 Jocks Cross, 6-1 Campalgn, 7-1 Disco Oes Micros, 8-1 Scotum Smite, Propertie.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

tish National winner makes his debut between the flags.

Run For Free has not won a race since just getting the better of Merry Master at Ayr in 1993, but at his best he could carry the Oxford boat race crew and win a point. Some great years with Martin Pipe are behind him and as part of ursday and praised the a long-term retirement package he is taking life at a gentler pace with Alan and Lawney Hill who run a livery yard near High Wycombe.

Not many thoroughbreds Il In Business represent like standing in fields at this time of year and Run For Free

EVISED point-to-point In Fantus's absence, the makes its debut at the cameras ought to be covering assignment is the men's open and if he retains his enthusing, where a Welsh and Scotis possible.

The sport is not only about old horses. Out The Door, now eight but last season's champion young horse, runs at the North Western meeting tomorrow with Stephanie Baxter at the reins.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: New Forest at Larkfull, 5m NW Amesbuty (first race 12.00); North Cornwall at Wadebridge, 1m W of rown (12.00); Old Raby at Witton Castle, 5m W of Bishop Auckland (12.30); Oxford University at Knoston Blourt, 5m NW of High Wycombe (12.00); Thurlow at Horsehaeith, 3m W of Haverhill (12.00).

TOMORRIOW: Easton Harriers Highern, 8m NE of Colchester (12.0 Lines, Club at Market Resert, occurse (12.00); North West at Wohlhampson, on NH course (12.00).

2.40 MARSTON MOOR HANDICAP CHASE

2-1 Konseklis Kieg, 3-1 Valkert Warner, 7-2 Kadi, 5-1 The Lest Filing, 7-1 Does The Felt, 14-1 in Trafit.

3-1 Edytreis De Moute, 7-2 Calestal Choir, 4-1 Tom Brodie, 5-1 Uncir Doug, 7-1 Ham N'Eggs, 8-1 Elpidos, Desert Fighteir, 19-1 others.

3.45 HAROLD CHARLTON MEMORIAL HUNTER CHASE (Americus: £1,193: 3m 1f) (10)

1 141- FORDSTOWN 280F (E.S.) J Alexandr 5-12-4. J Alexandr (7 2 6214 (DSHBALDO 96 (D.F.G.) C Peter 12-12-4. — A Parter (7 2 FC) AMPT RED 289 (D.F.G.S.) Light 13-12-4. — W Morgan (7 4 114- TEAPLANTER 289 (C.D.F.G.S.) Mes C Saundrs 14-12-4

\$ 4P2- CAR ON TARGET \$36 (D.F.G.S) Mrs M. Reveley 11-11-18 S Switers

7 OPO- HIGHE ANDMAN 340 (5) J Halders 11-11-10 M Bradhams (7) 8 OOF- NO WORD 285 (5) 1 Bales 10-11-10 1 Bales (7) 9 213- PEALAGE 289 (F.G.S) MESS J Wormall 13-11-10 Mess J Wormall (7)

11-10 Cab On Target, 4-1 Kechbakov, 5-1 Texplanter, 10-1 Meti Ricki, Pestada, 12-1 Southern Minstrial, Fordstown, 25-1 others.

4.20 WEATHERBYS STARS OF TOMORROW OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,413: 2m) (16)

MATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (21.413: 2m) (16)
6 BANGER COUNT 49 M W Exterby 5-11-2. A Doobin
0 BLASTER WATSOR I I C STRIP 5-11-2. M RECON
LADYS PET MISS S WINGENSOR 9-11-2. A Todd (7)
2 NOBLE TOM II R Colline 5-11-2. P Carborry
18 PHAR SHOOTHER 14 J FREGERIA 5-11-2. W Devan
3 ROMAN OUTLAW 43 M Remined 5-11-2. R Sanity
SHANNON SHOOM J Housed Johnson 5-11-2. G FRYSE (5)
SPRINTILLY PR Mess C Advisory 5-11-2. B Games
STAY'S PRIDE MISS V Accelliny 5-11-2. B Games
STAY'S PRIDE MISS V Accelliny 5-11-2. B Games
STAY'S PRIDE MISS V Accelliny 5-11-2. B Games
STRONG MARIC DESS C Johnson 5-11-2. B Games
STRONG MARIC DESS STREAM TO BE STRONG MISS C MISSON STRONG MARIC DESS STOPP
WAYNARD KNIGHT MIS M Reveloy 5-11-2. A S Smith
GREENOUS STREAM J Notice 4-10-6. Miss R Theories (5)
GELAYCL IN EXAMINED 4-10-1. Miss G Metcalle (7)
COURTINS J Helenon 4-10-1. Miss G Metcalle (7)

Martin Pipe failed in his attempt to go

through a seven-race card at Taunton yester-

day but the champion trainer, who sponsored

all the events at the meeting, still registered a

363-1 four-timer with Indian Jockey, D'Naan,

Banntown Bill and Maid Equal.

3.15 DEMMY SWITCH HANDICAP HURDLE

1.05 Eudipe. 1.35 King Of Camelot. 2.05 Artic Wings. 2.35 Silver Standard. 3.05 Poucher. 3.40 Fontainerouge.

GOING: GOOD

1,05 MERRY HILL SHOPPING CENTRE NOVICES

1 4111 EIDDPE 62 (F.G.S) M Pipe 5-11-11 S Wymoe
2 -581 STAGE PLAYER 42 (F.G.S) Miss C Caroe 11-11-5 Lumentoe
3 32-F BLAR CASTLE 9 (F) 6 Balding 5-11-2 B Feeton
4 1724 CLIFTON SAME 75 M Channon 7-11-2 D Gallogher
5 4903 CLIPRAGH PETER 7 Mrs P Bletzeton 10-11-2 Gary Levás (5)
6 -4PP MONO'S GROSS 12 (S) A J Wisson 6-11-2 Gary Levás (5)
7 6-00 THE SECRET GREY 64 D McCain 6-11-2 S Ryan (5)
9 46-P WAN A HANG 95 8 Ryal 7-10-1 S Ryan (5)
10 PPOP WOODLANDS BIERRY 15 P Protitot 6-10-11 R Bellamy
10 PPOP WOODLANDS BIERRY 15 P Protitot 6-10-11 R Bellamy 4-5 Euripe, 7-2 Cition Game. 6-1 Stage Player, 8-1 Bitar Castle, 12-1 Kino's Cines, 16-1 Currigh Polist, 20-1 others.

1.35 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE

2-5 King Ot Carnelot. 5-1 Freno, 8-1 Writer Rose, 12-1 Eignforus, 25-1 Combetted York.

2.05 AHP TRAILERS WOMBOURNE HANDICAP CHASE (£3,583: 2m 5f 110yd) (10)

3-1 Distinctive, 9-2 Actic Wegs, 5-1 Linden's Lotto, 7-1 Meny Panto, 8-1 The Commun, Over The Pole, 10-1 Send Rioga, 12-1 others

2.35 HARTSHORNE MOTOR SERVICES LTD (WALSALL) HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,920: 2m 6f 110yd) (3)

1-2 Silver Statetani, 7-2 Smith Too, 9-2 Cambo.

3.05 RICHARDSON'S MERLIN PARK NOVICES

6-4 Pouches, 3-1 Parabardy, 5-1 Top Javalio, 8-1 George Achteol, Davi's Course, 12-1 Domaine De Pros., 14-1 others.

3.40 STRATFORD-ON-AVON RACECOURSE COMPANY LTD 75TH ANNIVERSARY NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,369: 2m 31) (12)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAMERS: C. Mann, 3 winners from 11 commer, 27.3%; D. Micholton, 15 from 57, 26.3%; M. Floe, 26 from 100, 26.0%; K. Bailey, 14 from 75, 18.7%; R. O'Sellinan, 3 from 17, 17.6%. JOCKEYS: S Wynne, 8 witness from 30 ndes, 26 7%; D Forti, 3 from 12, 25,0%, R Greene, 4 kron 23, 17,4%; D D'Solliven, 4 from 24, 16,7%; i Lantenca, 8 from 26, 10,7%.

Blinkered first time CHEPSTOW: 250 Wide Support LINGFIELD PARK: 130 Mediate. 4.15 Tenyar. SANDOWN PARK: 3.00 Macmonis. STRATFORD: 2.05 Linden's Lotto.

مكذا من رلامهل

LINGFIELD PARK

1.30 Our Shadee, 2.00 Hoh Majestic, 2.35 Thick As Thieves, 3.10 Zurs, 3.40 Perilous Plight, 4.15 Wottashembles.

GOING; STANDARD

1.30 PELLEW APPRENTICES HANDICAP (£2,146: 1m) (9 runners) 1 1-51 RAMI 11 (C.G) Mess G Kesteway 4-10-0 Angeta Gallimore (3) 6 2 04-1 HATTA SURSHIER 9 (CD.G) G L Macro 7-10-0 M Bacchelor (5) 4 3 3102 HAWARI STORM 11 (CD.BF.G.S) D Brench Davis 9-9-6

5-2 Ram, 4-1 Hatta Sussiane, 9-2 Honeai Stocke, 5-1 Into Debs, 7-1 Medicin, Du Stader, 14-1 Med Alex, 16-1 others

2.00 BLACKWOOD CLAIMING STAKES

5-4 Kaler, 3-1 Heb Mayeric 5-1 Enchantica, Ma Vielle Pouque, 10-1 Hemenh Miss, 14-1 Imp Express

2.35 COCHRANE LIMITED STAKES (£2,496: 6f) (9)

1 6-00 BRIGHT PARAGON 7 (C.D.F.E.S) X Nory 8-9-5... C Scally 8 2 52-0 DARK MENACE 28 (E.D.F) F Wheeler 5-9-5... A Daly (5) 8 3 50-6 MUNY'S GARB WHE 7 (B.C.F) X Ivany 4-9-5... D Biggs 7 4 0-05 LOSSE PERT LAD 18 J Badger 5-9-5... D Notice 5 5 5-45 SER TASICER 7 (C.D.F.S) J J Harrs 9-9-5... D Holtand 9 6 00-0 SOUTHERM DOMBNOM 8 (CD,6) Mess J Cazer 5-9-5

3.10 DICKIE WILLMOTT MAIDEN STAKES 00-0 HAUTE CUESDE 10J R Williams 4-9-0 D Blogs 1
40-5 MESKY BRY 9 D Decreose 4-9-0 M Winners 4
RUDOLPTICE 15J B Janes 6-9-0 M Winners 2
234 RUSS 155 Mars B (Reliams) 4-9-0 D Holland 5
6 RACHEL'S ROCK 16 6 L Moore 4-6-8 S Withouth 3

3.40 JERVIS HANDICAP

E 11-3 NAUGHTY PISTOL S (VF.G) P Frant 5-8-11..... S Sandes 7
7 D-30 JO MAXSMES 14 (D.F.G) S Don 5-8-10....... A Daly (S) 5
6 B0-6 PERBLOUS PUGRT 9 (CD.F.B) Mrs L Stube 6-8-8 T Spoke 4

9-4 Mr. Nevermand, 3-3 Teim Creeks, 5-1 Namphry Pistal, 6-1 Spendy Classic. 7-1 Ids Fracty, 8-1 Krystal Max. 10-1 others. 4.15 AYLISH FANE-SAUNDERS HANDICAP (£2,804: 1m 5f) (9)

3 560 CHELOREN'S CHOICE 751 (F.S) W Mescon 6-9-8 C Crair 5
4 00-1 CLASSY CHEF 21 (CD.6) 1 Write 4-9-8 C Roger 1
5 424 EARDRA 12 R Absours 3-8-9 J Brentin (5) 8
6 00-2 CHEZ CATALAN 18 (B.D.F.G) R Nathurs 5-9-7 S. Sautius 2
7 50-0 ROYAL CRICLE 9 (CD.F.G) Philippe 8-9-6 D Harrison 8
8 6-38 TANRYAR 28 (B) R Hollimshand 5-8-1 J Clause 8
9 -544 MISSTANS 15 C Trenton 4-7-10 A McCattley (7) 7

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRABLERS: V Sound, 3 monters from 6 numers, 50.0%; C Thomson, 3 from 10, 30.0%; J Beny, 31 from 149, 20.5%, L Moulague Hall, 13 from 52, 20.6%, W Janus, 9 from 46, 19.6%, S Jones, 5 from 34, 14.7%. JOCKEYS: D Holland. 28 whores from 125 sides, 22.4%; G Milligar, 3 from 17, 17.6%, S Washerth, 35 from 221, 15.8%; C Scath, 6 from 44, 13.6%; M Rumore, 11 from 88, 12.5%; M Wigham, 14 from 114, 12.3%.

9-4 Readom Kndwess, 3-7 Mottestambles, 4-1 Classy Chief, 6-1 Dandra, 8-1 Chaldren's Choice 10-1 Mostang, 12-1 Chec Catalan 14-1 others.

Graham Bradley is to contest the two-day suspension he received from the Leicester stewards for careless riding on Wednesday.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leopards 83

Manchester 80. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): New Jersey 113 Phoenix 101; Minnesota 92 Dellas 82; Deriver 113 Houston 108; Utah

PRESTON: Saga world indoor champion-strip: Singles: Counter-final: H Duff (Soot) In A Allocot, (Eng) 7-5, 7-4, 5-7, 6-7, 7-4. Pairs: Sami-final: D Robinson and B Morley (Eng) bi 1 Taylor and S Glasson (Aus) 4-7, 6-7, 7-5, 7-3, 7-5

6-7, 7-5, 7-3, 7-5
YETTON TROPHY: Pith round: Cumbra to Darington 73-72; Boston bi St Neota 79-78; County Arts bi Essex County 111-53; Ossborough (Matidenhead) bi Tye Green 91-64; Avon Valley bi Sutton 75-70; Eghem B bi Mote Park 95-68; Albertey bi Presion (Brighton) 72-70; Tegnandge bi Natisee 85-61

CRESTA RUN

ST MORITZ: Prince Philip Trophy: 1, Royal Navy 669.65sec; 2, RAF 678.88; 3, Army 700 83, Lord Trenchard Trophy: 1, A Green 163.73, 2, T Lawrence 164.60; 3, W Welcoth 165 90. Auty Speed Cupt. 1, Green 53.23, Hartend Trophy: 1, G Orbsholm 154.96; 2, Lord Windesley 157 01, 3, D Stratford 158.21.

CRICKET

FOOTBALL

BASS IRISH CUP: Fifth-round replay: Crumin Unded 4 Bitish Telecom 1 AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First civica invisurance Combination: First edivision: Areana) 2 Bristol Cey 2 POINTIN'S CENTRAL LEAGUE: Cup: Group times: Transmere 0 Stoke 1 SPANISH CUP: Fourth round, first leg: Tenente 0 Real Bets 2, Barcelona 3 Real Madrid 2.

GOLF

PERTH, Australia: Helmeiten Classic: Custilisers (Geet Britan and Iraliand unless states) 1935; F. Hermorton 70, 63 135; F. Nobito (NZ) 66, 69 136; G. Turans (NZ) 65, 71 137; M. Campbell (NZ) 69, 68, M. A. Martin (So) 70, 67; P. McCanley 72, 65; P. O'Maitley (Aus) 88, 69; K. Tomon Lispen) 69, 68; W. Nely (Aus) 71, 66, 138; J. Van de Velde (Fril 89, 69, F. Couples, IUS) 68, 70; R. Allenby (Aus) 87, 69; K. Fornon Lispen) 69, 69; W. Nely (Aus) 71, 69; F. Couples, IUS) 68, 70; P. Broschurs 70, 69; R. Chapman 70, 69; W. Grady (Aus) 67, 72; Bout (NZ) 70, 69; D. Clarke 70, 69; P. Eales 70, 69; M. Turnichti 57, 72; J. Richson (26); P. Bout (NZ) 70, 69; D. Clarke 70, 69; P. Eales 70, 69; M. Turnichti 57, 72; J. Richson (Can) 70, 70; D. Carler 71, 68; K. Druce (Aus) 71, 69; T. 40; P. Servier (Aus) 69, 71; R. Gobson (Can) 70, 70; D. Carler 71, 68; K. Druce (Aus) 73; D. Smad (NZ) 73, 68; C. Suncson (Sp) 69, 72; F. Woosnam 72, 69; P. McWhitning (Aus) 69, 72; F. Woosnam 72, 69; P. McWhitning (Aus) 73, 71; D. Bransdon (Aus) 69, 72; 144; S. Cage 69, 73; P. Lonard (Aus) 69, 71, 71; C. Mcrogorinere 70, 72; S. Applieby 71, 72; Leney (Aus) 72, 73; R. Devis (Aus) 71, 72; M. Google (Ger) 72; 70; 143; A. Colzan 71, 72; M. Google (Ger) 72; 70; 144; L. Suphen (Aus) 72, 73; T. Townsord (Us) 74, 70; D. Cole (Aus) 73, 71; F. Termaud (Fr) 77, 7; C. Mason, 71, 73; S. Scarlli (MZ) 73, 71; L. Nestwood 71, 73; E. Bis (Sall) 73, 71; L. Nestwood 71, 73; E. Bis (Sall) 73, 71; L. Nestwood 71, 73; E. Bis (Sall) 73, 71; L. Nestwood 71, 73; E. Bis (Sall) 73, 71; L. Nestwood 71, 73; E. Bis (Sall) 73, 71; L. Nestwood 71, 73; F. Scarlli (MZ) 73, 71; L. Nestwood 71; 73; F. E. Bis (Sall) 73, 71; L. Nestwood 71; 73; F. E. Bis (Sall) 73, 71; L. Nestwood 71; 73; F. Perible BEACH, California: Nettornal Promin Journament Leading Mrs. Foro

ICE HOCKEY

SUPERLEAGUE: Basingstoke Bason 6 SUPPLEASUE: Basingstoke Bison 6
Bracknet Bess 9.
TOUR MATCH: Newcastle 1 Japan 1.
NATIONAL LEASUE (NHL) Rorida 3
Boston 1; St. Louis 5 Ottsive 2; Mortman 4
Tamps Bey 1; San Jase 6 Calgary 3;
Vancouver 2 NY Islanders 1 (OT); Los
Angeles 5 Hardons 3 RUGBY LEAGUE

TOWNSVILLE, Australia: World Inina-side tournament: Great Britain 20 Tonga 0; Great Britain 26 South Africa 10; New Zealand 14 Tonga 4; New Zealand 12 France 10: Australia 24 Linned States 0; Australia 18 Cook Islands 4; Wessem Sa-moa 30 United States 10; Wessem Sa-moa 30 United States 10; Wessem Sa-Guirga 0; South Africa 42 Japan 6; Fili 22 Papua New Guinea 10; France 28 Japan 0

RUGBY UNION

52 Scotland

Under-21 international matches 35 Scotland as scorand
England Under 21: Tries: Gustard
Harrison, Hitchmough, Lloyd, Long, Cc
Sampson, Pent Harrison, Scotland Under
21: Tries: McLeen 2, Bull. Con Ros
Pene: Ross 2: Oropped goal: Ross.
(at Stoop Memorial Ground)

Wates Under-21: Tries: A Davies, Janks, Morgan, Shomey, T Davies, Williams, West Const. Janks 3 Perr. Janks, Ireland Under-21: Tries: Easterby, Farrell. Pens: Farrell. 44 treiand

SCHLADMINS, Austrie: Men's World Cup station: Leading positions: 1. A Tomba (II) Imm 35.87ser. (46.94sec and 48.93sect; 2. T. Stangassimpe: (Austria). 1:36.03; 3, S. Antez (Fr). 1:36.19; 4, T. Sylona (Austria). 1:36.23; 5, K. Kimura (Jepan). 1:36.26, 6, M. Eberle (Ger.). 1:26.59.

SNOOKER

NEWPORT: Regal Weish Open: Cuarter-final; S Hendry (Scot) bi T Murphy (N Ire) 5-3 Semi-final: M King (Eng) bi M Williams Matter Le

SRA NATIONAL LEAGUE: Group B: Broadouma 2 Chichester J

22.35sec; 2. S. Brinni (Jamin 22.43; 3. O Roubtleshich (Belal) 22.56, 5. N O'Hare (Ive) 22.77 firsh record) Disqualified; M Foster 200m freeshyle: 1, M Kim (Just) I'man 45.62sec; 2. A Cayton 1:47.32; 3, D Magaras (Gr.) 1:48.71; 4. G. Meadons: 148.87; 6. J. Saller 1:50.64, 8. M German 1:53.38. 1,500m freeshyle: 1, I. Wiston 1:513.82; 2. S. Mikhonores (Bels) 1:525.32. 3, G. Orphandes: 15:46.79; 4. D. Nutfall 15:50.60; 5. N. Williamms: 16.00.58; 6. S. Shand: 16:30.47; 7, D. McDormell. 17:03.67; 100m breaststroke: 1, J. Kruppa. (Ger) 19:73; 2. A. Goukov (Bala) 10:10.33, M. Krawczyk. (Pol). 10:10.45; G. Brend: 102.71; 6. Ayers: 125.22; 100m butlantly: 1. Klem. 52.06; 2. J. Hickman. 52.34 (European record); 3. F. Haromans (Ger). 15:70; 3. A. Fuctwood 15:77.11; 6. Herris: 214; 3. N. Willey 25:50. 6. A. O'Connor. (ke) 25:86. 200m bezk-stroke: 1, N. Buñacu (Rom). 15:55.02; 2. Rugar. (Ger). 15:7.07; 3. A. Fuctwood 15:77.15; 6. Herris: 200.16; 7. S. Millis: 212.98; 8. O'Connor. 203.95; 200m individual meetiley: 1, N. Duran. (Aus.). 15:90.2; 2. Knuppa. 200.18; 3. R. van dur 22mt (Aus.). 200.75; 7. C. Jones 206.13, 8. D. Wigg. 206.14. Women: 100m freeshyle: 1, N. Messarer (Ger). 54:43; 2. S. Fuchudar 55:39. 410; 1. S. Brand: (Ger). 222.81; 5. C. Huddinal 55:39. 450m branderstroke: 1, Z. Farand: (China). 30:88 (world record); 2. J. Knupp. 22.15; 6. R. Thornies (Ger). 222.81; 5. L. Huddmarsh: 231.50. 8. Thornies (Ger). 222.87; 5. L. Naderer (Rel.). 223.87; 8. N Thornies, 231.50. 8. Thornies, 237.69. Show butterfly: 1, L. Lauster (China). 206.85; 7. R. S. Rus. 221.50. 8. Thornies, 237.69. 90m brashstroke: 1, Z. Farand: 221.50. 8. Thornies, 237.69. 90m brashstroke: 1, J. Lauster (China). 200.85; 7. N. S. Millissey. 23.59. 50. 8. Thornies, 23.59. C. Huddinal 22.75; 3. N. Thornies, 23.59. 8. Thornies, 23.59. 8. N. Thornies, 23.59. 8. N. Thornies, 23.59. 8. Thornies, 23.59. 8. N. Thornies, 23.59. 8. N. T

6 MANGODAL 13 (BF) D Rectation 4-10-7 Str R Thomas (S)
2-1 Darago, 4-1 Namondai, 5-1 New Certary, 8-1 Royal York, 10-1 Durana, former Serkie, 12-1 Something Speedy, 14-1 others.

1.40 DEMINY THE BOOKMAKER NOVICES CHASE 11-10 Chel Manster, 3-1 Colomel in Chief, 4-1 Golden Heilo, 10-1 Castly Hang, 25-1 Just Supposen, 33-1 Wild Serie. 2.10 DEMMY CREDIT HANDICAP HURDLE

JOCKEYS: P Carbony, 6 mirrors from 21 titles, 28.6%; R Excell, 12 from 72 16.7%; A Double, 15 from 100, 15 ffs; F Lealer, 8 from 32, 12.5%.

TRANSPER: Mass C Salanders, 3 wheners have 4 minutes, 75.0%, D Michigan, 17 trop 56, 30.4%; Mrs M Reveloy, 47 from 170, 27.6%; Alto A Sembank, 3 from 11, 27.3%; G Richards, 27 from 115, 23.5%.

74

RUGBY UNION

مِكذا من رلامل

Wales must look to capitalise on Edinburgh festival

THE match between Wales and Ireland in Cardiff this afternoon is very much in the balance. This may sound odd: after all, so much is made in the five nations' championship of the value and influence of playing at home that Wales, it would be supposed, must already have their noses in front. Riding on a wave of emotion and prompted by a sense of nationalism, the advantage of playing at Cardiff Arms Park must surely tip the balance in

Whatever debate arises over the relative strengths and weaknesses of the teams, the venue remains a significant factor. It is no different today, except that it is the inverse of what one would normally believe to be the point. The past 14 years indicate that Cardiff is no blessed place for Welshmen when the Irish are

Welshmen whisper under their breath that they have to look back to 1983 for their team's last victory against Ireland on their own ground. Were the Welsh and Irish not such good friends, off the field at least, this might have tormenting statistic.

More often than not, though, the Irish have reciprocated generously when the encounter has taken place in

Yet, for all this time, Ireland

WALES

N.R. Jenkins (Pontypridd)

I C Evans (Liznetii)

G Thomas (Bridgend)

I S Gibbs (Swansea

D James (Bridgend)

R Howley (Cardilf)

A C Thomas (Swanse

J M Humphreys (Cardiff)

G O Llewellyn (Harlequins)

M Rowley (Pontypridd)

C L Charvis (Swansea)

I S Quinnell (Richmond)

Referee: W J Erickson (Australia) BBC1: 5.0 (highlights)

exploited by a more powerful The lineout was not as

productive as it might have

been and the scrum was not as

notent as it needs to be, yet it

was the manner in which they

lost control of possession, once

having gained it, that should

disturb them the most.
Smarting from their fourth

consecutive defeat, it is from

such lack of control that

Ireland could revive their flag-

ging spirits. They will find

hope in their opponents' loose-ness, upon which Corkery, McBride and Miller will

Since the Ireland three-

quarters, where Hickie, 20,

wins his first cap, failed to

make any impression against

France, much will continue to

depend on the back row and the half-back pairing of

Elwood and Hogan. Elwood

was Ireland's only scorer last

time out with five penalty

goals. Ross Nesdale is another

Staples, who broke his jaw in

the match against Australia

last November, resumes the

If there are limits within

which Ireland would be forced

to play, Wales have a potential

for greater variety. If the ball's

capricious bounce lavoured Wales's tries, scored by Evans and Arwel Thomas, against

Scotland, the other two, by Scott Quinnell and Jenkins,

enjoyed the benefit of good

passing and support. If

Howley threatened and Thomas teased at half back.

new cap, at hooker, while Jim

tress in Cardiff, which has prompted Tom Kiernan, the reland captain who led the British Lions to South Africa in 1968 and a prominent rugby administrator since, to comment, with a twinkle in his eye, that Ireland ought to play they should forget their proposed development at Phoenix Park and consider Cardiff instead as their permanent home. It is all very

FIVE NATIONS

In reality, though, all this ought not to mean very much as it is muscle and fibre, a jink and a kick, upon which results are determined.

Championship

Wales returned from Edinburgh two weeks ago with a spring in their heels after their 34-19 victory. The rub of the green for once had favoured them and four tries contributed to a satisfying victory. They played well and they deserved the margin of success, yet

P.S. Johns (Saracens

W D McBride (Majone)

ERP Miller (Leicester)

J W Davidson (London Irish)

TODAY'S TEAMS AT CARDIFF the rock upon which Wales built their play was based on a solid midfield. IRELAND It will not be the same today. 15 J E Staples (Harlequins) Allan Bateman, with whom 14 D Hickie (St Mary's College) Scott Gibbs had formed such a J C Bell (Northampton) fluid understanding, is absent 12 M J Field (Malone) because of injury. Gareth D J Crotty (Garryowen) Thomas, who has not looked E P Elwood (Lansdowne) comfortable on the wing, N A Hogari (Terenute College) moves to centre, his favoured position; Dafydd James, a Bridgend centre, comes into

> undoubted effect on Wales's This will be a testing match for Wales. There was excitement after Murrayfield. To-REPLACEMENTS: 18 K P McQuilldin (Lansdowne), 17 D G Humphreys (London Irish), 18 S C Mctvor (Garryowen), 19 G M Fulcher (London Irish), 20 P Flavin (Biackrock College), 21 S Byrne (Biackrock College). day is the day when they need to confirm what promise was on display then. The game should go their way, but it is a day on which you could well lose your shirt.

the side on the wing; and these

Say a prayer for the pint-sized dragon as Arwel bounces back Andrew Longmore on

the Wales stand-off

half ready for his next encounter with Ireland

Regardless of nationality or affiliation, a little piece of all of us should pray for the safety and prosperity of Arwel Thomas at the National Stadium, Cardiff, this afternoon.

"If we are looking for one area to attack straightaway. Denis MeBride, the Ireland flanker, said, "I think it may be Arwel Thomas." In other words, like last time, we are going to break the little boy in two. There would not be much to either section, if they did.

Thomas is 5ft 8in tall, 10's stone soaking wet and because it is one of the eternal beauties of all the best sports that brain can outwit brawn, speed defy size, the village mascot from Trebanos in the Swansea valley carries more than just the hopes of his countrymen on his slender shoulders. Rugby needs little wizards as well as thundering giants. And the British Isles need a good stand-off half.

Nobody has ever actually told Thomas that he should try football or some less brutish pastime, but two of his teachers did once sit him down to explain the facts of rugby life. "I was 14 or 15 and others were being picked for Glamorgan Schools," Thomas said, "but they told me what I could achieve at the game and tried to get me to train properly. It was difficult because I was the small boy and not being recognised.

Thomas played scrum half for the first part of his youth, when the No 10 was the only jersey he wanted to wear. He still says "scrum half" with a disdain usually reserved by half backs for props and

Eight caps on, Thomas's admirers believe that the heir to the tradition of Dai and Barry and Phil and Jonathan has been found at last. Against Scotland at Murrayfield. Thomas orchestrated a rare glimpse of virtuosity which brought Wales three tries in five minutes, the second by Arwel, who celebrated by carrying the ball most into the crowd.

The Wales players thought he looked like Forrest Gump, body straight, arms pumping, so "Forrest" he is now. But it was an act of spontaneous joy, a ritual banishing of bad memories, a release of a yearlong tension. "I got some stick for not putting the ball down, but I knew what I was doing."



That was more than can be said for his last tilt at the Irish. Trampled unceremoniously by the baying green pack as he stood, waif-like, under a high ball at Lansdowne Road, Thomas emerged dazed and disorientated. He should have gone off. But he stayed. missed penalties and touch kicks, threw wild passes and tested the faith of all those who had clung desperately to the vision of this latest Weish saviour. Wales lost 30-17.

"He was hurt, really down." Kevin Bowtin coach, said. "He was hurt by the media response because they had built him up so much. It took a long while for his confidence to come back, but he's a better player now because of what happened."

Yet eyebrows were raised last month when Thomas, who only regained his place against South Africa when pose any restrictive game-

Jonathan Davies went down with influenza, was selected ahead of Davies and Neil Jenkins. It is not just Thornas's neck on the line in Cardiff this afternoon.

We have invested a little in Arwei and he's already paid some of it back," Bowring said. "He's just got a little to work on, but he's still only 22."

onsistency is the one ingredient both men stress - playing not just in natches but to a high 80 minutes. Thomas, Bowring says, sees so many options. has the ability and imagination to try so many things, he sometimes forgets to do the

simple things well. "He has to play in the present, not think too much about things in advance," he added. "But I wouldn't im-

and 1956, an average of 1.1 per

game, and this had increased dramatically to 447 (average

4.5) in the period from 1987 to 1996. Yet, if all penalties are

eliminated from the scores in

all 498 five nations' matches

since 1947, the result would

have been different in only 18

per cent (the raising of the try

points, to four in 1971 and five

in 1992, made no impact on

just as in the period 1947-56.

the percentage of matches being won by the team scoring

more tries remains around 75

per cent, in only 26 matches

or less than 5 per cent, did

the team scoring fewer tries win because of kicked

How does Thomas explain this paradox? "What happens,

albeit subconsciously, is that the referees see to it that

penalty goals cancel each oth-

er out," he says. "In other words, if one team kicks three

penalties, their opponents are

usually given the opportunity

of kicking two or three or four.

Given one penalty, the other

will get none, one or two.

The last decade shows that,

plans on Arwel, he has to make the choices himself."
When Bristol tried to last season. Arwel went back home, to Swansea and his

mother's cooking.

There is a nice balance to this Wales side speed on the wings, weight in the centre, power in the pack. All Arwel

has to do is pull the right strings, and be true to himself. People say I have a touch of armeance when I play, but I'm not aware of that. It's just the way I am. I've always had pected thus

make up for my size, I suppose." Or the name, perhaps: Arwel Camber Thomas. Camber is my father's middle name and I've been lumbered with it. I suppose it's quite nice. There aren't many Arwel Camber Thomases around anyway." One too many for comfort, the Irish

might reckon by tea time.

This is graphically illus-trated by looking at the match-es played between Wales and

Ireland over the last 25 years

where one team kicked three

or more penalties. The se-

quence was: 5-4, 4-3, 3-4, 4-3, 4-

3, 3-3, 3-3, 3-3, 3-3, 3-2, 3-2, 3-1,

3-0. In only two matches did one team kick more than one

more penalty than the other."

This trend was replicated in

"This cancelling out is the

reason why, in the three World Cups, 80 — or 83 per cent — of the 96 matches

played were won by the team

scoring the most tries, and in

the five nations', where results

are far closer, the current figure is 75 per cent. "Penalties simply cancel each other out, the final dra-

matic example being the last five matches of the 1995 World

Cup. Excluding the All Blacks'

high-scoring quarter-final and semi-final matches, there were

43 penalties, seven tries and

four dropped goals. Surpris-ing as it may seem, despite six

times more penalties than

tries, not one result would

have been different if all

the 1995 World Cup.

Flair and forward strength put paid to Scotland

By MARK SOUSTER

IT MAY have been the inaugural A international between England and Scotland but the match followed a familiar pattern for the Scots, who were overpowered in the forward exchanges and came up against a back division which showed a flair and panache not always associated with England sides, and led by the

admirable Will Greenwood. England outscored Scotland, who were under pressure virtually throughout, by eight tries to three at the Stoop Memorial Ground and, but for lamentable place-kicking by Alex King, who missed five conversions and a penalty, the result would have been more

Apart from the injured Alan Tait and George Graham, this was the same Scotland side that scored 56 points against Emerging Wales two weeks ago. However, apart from Andy Nicol, who performed minor miracles behind a beaten pack before retiring injured with a dislocated elbow in the second half, and the lively Derrick Lee, who scored two tries, Scotland had little to

offer except stoic defence. The tone was set by Green-wood who waltzed past Eric Peters for the opening try, converted by King, after 12 minutes and, once England tightened up after a plethora of turnovers early on, they were utterly dominant.

Bracken added another try in the first half and, after the break, they scored virtually at will, the highlights including Luger's sprint in from 50 metres and Greenwood's intuitive reverse pass that created space for Diprose to score.

SCORERS: England A: Tries: Bracken (2) Beal, Adebayo, Greenwood, Luger Sheasty, Diprose. Conversions: King (3) Pensetly goals: King (2) Scolland A: Tries: Lee (2), Peters. Conversion: Welsh.

ENGLAND A: N Beel (Northampton); / Adebayo (Bath), W Greenwood (Lacosser captain), N Greenstock (Wasps), D Luge (Harlequins); A King (Wasps), K Bracker placed by G Allison (Herisquins, 62-70).
SCOTLAND A: D Lee (Wetsonians); C Giasgow (Heriot's FT), P Rouse (Dundee HSFP), D Hodge (Massonians), J Chaig (West of Scotland); S Welsh (Hawich), A Nicol (Bash); J Manson (String County), G Butloch (West of Scotland), P Winght (Meliose), E Peters (Bath), S Campbell (Meliose), G Grimes (Watsonians), M Wallisoe (Glasgow High/Kehnside). C Hogg (Weisoss, cardairly), Nicol replaced by I Farriey (Nelso, 4-11 and 68mm); Carlot (Febbles, 3-6).
Wilght temporarily replaced by S Farguson (Peebles, 3-6).

Sampson's switch augurs well

England Under-21 35 Scotland Under-21..... 26

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

PAUL SAMPSON, the Wasps wing, showed his club and the England selectors that he has a bright future at stand-off half with a superb display as the under-21 side struck the

first blow of the weekend against Scotland yesterday. Sampson, who was selected for the England squad last season when still a schoolboy, was switched to stand-off for the game and, with Hitchmough, the impressive Orrell full back, ran the show. England's six-try victory

was not as emphatic as it should have been, though, thanks to a fightback by Scotland in the second half.
Sampson was at the centre
of everything, although England failed to capitalise fully on their forward domination. in the first half, and relied too

heavily on Sampson and Hitchmough, the latter opening England's account with a try in the corner in reply to a dropped goal from Ross. Gustard, who came on as a replacement for Kay, the injured lock but played in the back row, was quick to make his mark, sprining 40 yards from his first scrum. Then, from a set-piece five metres

out, he dived over to put England 12-3 ahead. Lloyd, the Leicester wing touched down for England's third try just before half-time but, with the score at 17-6, 2 mistake by Hitchmough allowed Bull to burst through

and score. Ross kicked Scotland to within three points, and Gustard's second try was an-swered with a score from McLean, the wing Eventual ly. England's superiority produced tries for Long. the hooker, and Harrison, the scrum half, though McLean had the last word, sprinting from halfway for his second.

Harmony threatens to prevail By DAVID HANDS

REPLACEMENTS: 16 J Davies (Cardif), 17 P John (Pontypridd), 18 K P Jones (Ebbw Vale), 19 J C Quinnell (Richmond), 20 L Mustoe (Cardiff), 21 G R Jenláns (Swansee).

RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S leading clubs. which have known so many false dawns in their dispute with the Rugby Football Union (RFU) over the past year, spent yesterday making sure that the agreement that they hope to sign at Twickenham today is the one to which they assented last week.

Late on Thursday, the RFU's full committee approved the formula that both sides hope will take English rugby forward in harmony. It was driven through by John Richardson, the union president, who went into the committee meeting convinced that further prevarication would cause lasting damage. There is now a prospect that

the new company designed to run first and second division rugby will come into being soon and free up valuable RFU resources to foster the wider interests of the game, which have been severely neglected this season. The clubs can also look forward to a share of television revenue. which up to now has been withheld, and can organise their budgets more effectively.

Even so, the RFU has still to negotiate a special general meeting on March 9, which is designed to implement the constitutional recommendations of the report prepared by Sir Pat Lowry but which could yet offer an opportunity to the grass roots to have their say.

Cliff Brittle, the chairman of the RFU executive committee. who opposed the agreement with the clubs, found himself heavily outvoted on Thursday and will spend the weekend considering his position. Brittle still believes that the game at large should be consulted over the agreement, which suggests that he has no confidence in either his fellow officials or committee members, who themselves represent the constituent bodies.

England should try harder to be expansive

ENGLAND begin their five nations' championship defence today against Scotland of each match played outside the World Cup in those three years — and last year as well. at Twickenham. Having won the title on four occasions in the Nineties, England have consistently been the most powerful team in Europe and carried the accolade of being the best in the northern hemisphere, but their style of play has rarely been free of

They have gained respect aplenty for their discipline and organisation: admiration. too, for their single-minded desire in accomplishing most of their goals; but they have rarely appealed to the heart. They would have had to let their hair down for that and to take a chance; to accumulate more felt they had it within them to

This is a subjective view, but the analysis undertaken by Corris Thomas, the former international referee, as part of his research fellowship at the University of Wales Institute in Cardiff, argues that, in rugby terms, England have contributed little to the world

"While other countries, such as New Zealand, Australia and South Africa, have been seeking to extend the boundaries of the game, in terms of its skill, excitement, attraction and even exhilaration, England's contribution appears to have been minimal," Thomas says from his study, which is lined with video recordings. files and charts covering international matches played over

the past 50 years. "In the three years leading up to the World Cup in 1995, England's record against the seven other original International Rugby Football Board (fRFB) countries was excellent. It was bettered by only one country, Australia, and that

only marginally."
However, while being highly successful, England's method of scoring was very different. Penalties were the main scoring weapon, as can

These show that England, although having a marvellous won-lost record (14-6), failed to score a try in exactly half of their 20 matches, where their overall totals were 21 tries and 70 penalty goals. In no fixture more than that against Scot-

land is the failure to score tries more acute: in the last three meetings, all won by England, they have kicked 18 penalty goals thut failed to score a single try.

The reliance on the penalty

goal as their main method of scoring becomes more striking when compared with all of the other original IRFB countries. During the three years preced-ing the 1995 World Cup, England were try-less in more than half their matches (53 per cent). Only Scotland (50 per cent) were anywhere near. whereas Australia stood at 6 per cent, France at 12 and the other leading powers, New Zealand and South Africa, were below 20 per cent. The same pattern evolved during the World Cup itself.

Gerald Davies on the statistical evidence which shows that one team stands alone in relying on penalties to achieve success

where England's average of 1.8 tries a match again left them bottom of the league in terms of tries scored by the IRFB countries against all opponents. The figures for New Zealand (6.8 tries per match) and Scotland (5.0) are somewhat inflated, as they include 21 tries scored against Japan and 13 against the Ivory Coast respectively.

Even more damning, how-ever, are figures which compare the points scored through tries as a percentage of the total points scored. England come bottom not only of the IRFB teams but of all teams in the competition, trailing behind the likes of Japan, Tonga, Ivory Coast and Romania.

What may be of more con-cern, and is a matter that is now being addressed by the team management, is that the trend failed to alter in the 1996 five nations' championship. England kicked 17 penalties and scored three tries, while France kicked seven penalties and scored ten tries. Even the other three teams had a better try count. with Wales and ireland on six each and Scot-

Pens kicked

1947-56 114

17 (1960) 44 (1976) 58 (1986) 61 (1994)

10 (1961) 12 (1970) 29 (1960) 31 (1988)

land on five. Thus only 19 per cent of England's points came from tries. One of the effects of this was that England took up 38 minutes, or the equivalent of one half of a match, in taking shots at goal.

The results of matches involving England are quite unlike most others at international level in terms of scoring profile." Thomas says. "in the five nations' championship last year, when England played the average number of tries scored was only 1.25, while seven penalties were scored, a ratio of 1:6. For other matches which did not involve England there was an average of 4.2 tries and 3.5 penalties, a

ratio of better than 1:1.

The extraordinary point about these figures is that it bucks the trend of the last 50 years, which indicates that penalties win surprisingly few matches. Despite the dramatic increase in the number of penalties kicked, the fact is that penalties do not win rugby matches."

A total of 114 penalty goals were kicked in the five nations' championship between 1947

55 73 44 68 110 64 327 63 327 63 105 62 69 56 179 56 28 51 89 51 184 46 144 45 45 45 44 158 36 Property of the property of the control of the cont 1.1 1.3 29

penalties had been eliminated.

of them.

The same team would have This is why Thomas thinks that England's performances are so interesting. On those relatively few occasions when penalties affect the result. England are taking an in-creasing and exceptional proportion. in only eight (44 per cent) of the last 18 matches against IRFB countries did they score more tries than the opposition. In the ten matches in which they scored the same number or lewer tries they needed penalties to win eight This does not change the eternal fascination, however, of the five nations' champion-

ship. But Jack Rowell and his team may ponder on Thomas's statistics. The desire is there to change the pattern of English play, but, doubtless, when the whistle blows, a win is a win is a win, whichever MOTOR RACING: WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FAVOURITE QUESTIONS SEARCH FOR SAFETY IN FORMULA ONE

Villeneuve craves greater excitement

BY OLIVER HOLT

strength

Put paid

to Scollan JACQUES VILLENEUVE, the pre-season favourite to win the Formula One world drivers' championship this year, lived up to his daredevil reputation yesterday when he said that he might consider quitting the sport because the tracks had been emasculated and the cars were too slow.

The French-Canadian, who took to grand prix racing so effortlessly in his debut season last year, when he finished second in the race for the title to his Williams-Renault team-mate. Damon Hill, said he was looking forward to the "positive pressure" of being expected to win the title this season. However, speaking at the launch of the new Williams FW19 car at the team's former headquarters. in Didcot, Oxfordshire, yes-terday. Villeneuve, one of the Formula One's few independent-thinking drivers, also criticised developments within the sport that he feels have surpped it of some of its raw

"As long as Formula One carry on in it for a while to come," Villeneuve said, "but when you look at all the changes being made, tyre-wise and rule-wise, it is becoming scary to see how low Formula One could go just to make it more spectacular.

"It is a false way of doing things. It would become more of a curcus than a sport. It would restrict cars too much and someone who could push the limit further away would not be able to use the advan-

It already does not feel fast enough to me. It is so much safer than it used to be. In fact.



it has gone overboard, safetythan we were, with the helmets protected and the changes they have made to the track and the cars that are slower. It is more than safe enough. If someone other than [Ayrton] Senna had died, they would not have cared that

Villeneuve, who won the Indianapolis 500 and the IndyCar world series in his second year there, said that his first year in Formula One had been better than his first in the United States, and admitted that he was expecting great things from this season. "It will be a different kind of pressure this year, "he said, "a

more positive pressure, something easier to swallow. Last year, a lot of the pressure was from people expecting me to fall flat on my face coming from the States and I had to prove them wrong. This year will be all about proving people right." Despite the loss of their

chief designer, Adrian Newey,

who will probably join McLaren if he can free himself from his Williams contract, Williams will start the season as favourites to add another constructors' title to their rich

The prospects of them continuing their recent dominance were also boosted with the confirmation that Renault

would continue to supply bly BMW, in place in 2000.

them with engines at the end of this season, courtesy of their French subsidiary, Mecachrome. Williams will have to pay for the engines rather than being given them free, but the two-year deal will allow them to have another engine manufacturer, proba-

tinued in the second set and clearly began to sap Harlow's confidence. It was galling for him to play three or four good bowls each end, only to lose the shot or shots when Duff performed a series of unlikely

know I was not as consistent in the third and fourth sets as I had been in the first

allowed Duff, who lost to David Gourlay in last year's final, to step in and, with more room to play with, the former champion's drawing to the jack improved. Turning a 4-0 deficit into a 7-4 win in the third set. Duff scored a three to take the lead in the fourth final with a well-taken double.

IN BRIEF

Duff proves the power of positive thinking vacancy

By DAVID RHYS JONES

BOWLS

TRUE champions have an ability to beat an opponent even when being outplayed and Hugh Duff did exactly that at the Preston Guild Hall yesterday. Though Greg Harlow was in impressive form in their Saga world indoor singles championship semi-final, Duff, the 1988 champion, emerged the winner.

In addition, he did so in a style very different to that he employed when winning the championshhip at the Alexan-dra Palace nine years ago. That success will be remembered for his uncanny drawing to the jack; now, instead of getting his bowls so close to the little yellow bowl, he relies on a repertoire of attacking shots to convert adverse positions.

After his 5-7, 7-4, 7-4, 7-6 win over Harlow, Duff threw some light on his new gameplan, revealing that he dons headphones and listens to a "positive thinking" tape minutes before taking to the green. Indeed, his retaliation with his third and fourth bowls was nothing if not positive.

Harlow, 28, dominated the opening exchanges and enioved the same intimate relationship with the jack that Duff once did. Nevertheless, though comprehensively outplayed, Duff managed to hold Harlow to 5-5, before a double gave the Ely man his first

Duff's disruptive tactics con-

"I can't explain what hap-pened," Harlow said. "I just

Inevitably, Harlow's decline

Graveney is allowed to apply for

DAVID GRAVENEY was yesterday allowed to enter the race for the vacant post of chairman of selectors after discussions between the Professional Cricketers' Association and the England and Wales Cricket Board.

As general secretary of the association, Graveney has twice been blocked from becoming a candidate because his membership believed there would have been a conflict of interests. But the parties will modify the role of chairman to exclude him from disciplining any of his membership, should he be chosen for the post.

Graveney will be up against a fellow selector. Graham Gooch, who advised the England Management Advisory Committee on November that he would be interested in the post and would retire from playing, if required.

Britain's task

Rugby league: Great Britain need to win two of their matches today against France, Japan and New Zeaand, to qualify for the semifinals of the World Nines in Townsville, Australia. Yesterday they beat Tonga 20-0 and South Africa 28-10.

John Bentley, Iestyn Har-ris, Barrie-Jon Mather and Stuart Spruce scored the tries against Tonga and two tries by Denis Betts helped Britain to another convincing victory over South Africa.

Rusedski through Tennis: Greg Rusedski beat

Martin Damm, of Germany, 7-5, 6-3 to reach the semi-finals of the Croatian Open in Zagreb yesterday. A break in each set was enough for Britain's No 2

Cannock hopeful

Hockey: Cannock, with Chris Mayer restored to fitness, should extend their four-point lead in the premier division of the National League when they visit struggling Havant

Ashley's date

Boxing: Crawford Ashley, the light-heavyweight champion Dominguez, of Spain, for the vacant European title in Liverpool on March 1.

14/1

33/1

66/1

.125/1

ATHLETICS

Gunnell back in buoyant mood

By David Powell, athletics correspondent

competition tomorrow in her first race since she left the a high-achieving Briton making a comeback from injury ley, the former British recordholder for 400 metres, is also due to return.

Gunnell, the former Olymic and world 400 metres hurdles champion, considered retirement after Atlanta, "My first thoughts were I have had enough, I have had my day, she said. However, she was so moved by her visit to Angola last October that it diminished her self-pity, helping to convince her to continue. Two injury-blighted years were nothing, she concluded, compared with the suffering of landmine victims.

this weekend, Hence, Gunnell finds herself back in Stuttgart, scene of her 1993 world title and world record; for an indoor 400 metres. If she can record in the region of 53 seconds, she will be on course to fulfil her aim of running in the world indoor championships in Paris in

"My training has gone so well I have surprised myself." Gunnell said. The feeling is so very different to last year. I



Thugwane: London entry

SALLY GUNNELL returns to just hope it continues." The seriousness of her intentions was evident when she re-Atlanta Olympic arena in a turned this week from trainwheelchair. She is not alone as ing in South Africa and undertook a six-hour round journey to Birmingham just to reacquaint herself with the feeling of running on an indoor track.

Grindley is attempting to regain his place among the elite of British 400 metres running, from where he has been absent since 1993, when he won the European Cup and was British No 1. The route he has mapped towards the 400 metres in the outdoor world championships in Athens is via the 800 metres indoors in

A former AAA junior indoor 800 metres champion, Grindley will run that distance at the Midlands meeting in Birmingham this weekend. If successful, he is expected to continue on to the BAF trials for Paris.

Josia Thugwane, who became South Africa's first black Olympic champion when hewon the marathon in Atlanta, is to run in the Flora London Marathon on April 13. Thugwane's face was scarred by a bullet five months before Atlanta when his pick-up truck was hijacked and he refused to hand over the keys. He overcame facial and back injuries, caused when he jumped from his moving truck, to win the closest mara-

thon in Olympic history. Driving does not seem best suited to Thugwane's health. On Thursday he became involved in a road-rage argu-ment and spent the night in hospital with cuts and bruises. He is expected to be back training within days.

Thugwane's London opponents will include Antonio Pinto, from Portugal, Steve Moneghetti, from Australia, and the British runners, Paul Evans, Richard Neturkar and Eamonn Martin.

GOLF: RYDER CUP CANDIDATES SHOW ENCOURAGING EARLY-SEASON FORM

Spyglass view looking good for Faldo

GOLF CORRESPONDENT

SEVERIANO Ballesteros, the Europe captain for the Ryder Cup match against the United States in September, must have been cheered yesterday by the news from tournaments in Monterey, California and Perth. Western Australia, where contenders for places in his team were

two strokes behind Jesper scoring. "Allowing us to tee it

THE lack of scoring power

which failed to trip up Mark

Williams when he captured

the Regal Welsh Open title 12

months ago, finally caught up

with him in the semi-finals of

this year's event, at Newport

Williams was beaten 6-5 by

Mark King, 22, from Rom-

ford, who had never previous-

ly progressed further than the

last 16 of a world ranking

tournament in six years as a

break of 61 in the second

frame, Williams struggled to

having compiled a promising run of 37 to lead 52-5 in the

fifth frame, he missed a simple

red, which allowed King to

recover and win the frame on

King, quoted as 200-l out-sider by the bookmakers, Wil-

liam Hill, before he defeated

Steve Davis in the first round, levelled at 3-3 with a break of

79 and moved 4-3 ahead by

potting the final black in the

seventh frame when Williams.

with cueing hampered by the

close praximity of white to side

cushion, missed it to a balk

The Welshman led 3-1 but

yesterday.

professional.

find any fluency.

the brown.

Parnevik, of Sweden, and David Duvai, who led after the first round of the AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am. Faldo, in a group that included Jack Lemon, the actor, played Spyglass Hill, the most difficult of the three courses over which this tournament is staged.

Because of the wet conditions, competitors were per-mitted to lift, clean and place r every shot that Nick Faldo started with a did not finish on a green. 67, five under par, and was which accounted for the low

SNOOKER

well to remain composed. He

carried the match its full

distance and led 50-0 in the

deciding frame until jawing a

£21,000 at stake, not to men-

tion the opportunity of meet-

ing John Parrott or Stephen

Hendry in today's best-of-17-

frame final, King was entitled.

SNOW REPORTS

Conditions Runs to

30 40 fair varied closed fine -5 21/1
[Pistes hard-packed, Hintertux glacier excellent]
40 140 good varied good fine -1 21/1
[Good skiling continues; some hard or worn patches]
15 55 fair icy closed cloud -1 27/1
[Pistes equipped with snow machines best]

90 250 good crust law sun (Conditions still good but some hard or toy patches) 40 230 good hard toy sun (Upper pistes good, lower ones very hard or try) 50 130 tair moguls tair sun (Good snow available but some main runs wearing)

ère 80 215 good vaned icy sun 0 (Some spring snow developing; good high but hard or icy low)

40 300 good varied worn fine west pistes heavy after lunch, others remain good) 20 145 good varied fair sun

(All upper runs skling well, above 1,900m)

Oft/p resort

With a minimum cheque of

tricky red.

ALISTRIA

Maymolen

Obergurgi

up was right," Faldo said, "but doing that, you can save as many as four shots." Padraig Harrington, who

lies sixteenth in the Ryder Cup points table, took a twostroke lead in the Heineken Classic at The Vines, near Perth, after setting a course record of 63, nine under par. in the second round:

Harrington, 25, who played in the 1995 Walker Cup team had nine birdies in a round that equalled the lowest of his

given his shortage of experi-

Instead, he made a break of

57 and when Williams had the

misfortune to go in-off from a

safety shot on the brown, King

cleared to pink as he joined

Brian Morgan and Euan Hen-

derson as the third player ranked outside the top 32 to

Weather (5pm) Last °C snow

fine 5 22/1

figure in a final this season.

ence, to fall victim to nerves.

ing a wonderful first season as a professional, Michael Campbell, of New Zealand plunged from fifth in the 1995 Order of Merit to 120th. He became so dispirited that he deliberately three-putted at one event in order to miss the cut, "I was at the point where I was going to give the game up," Campbell said. He was much happier after a round of to joint fourth.

GRAB A FREE King stays calm to reach final " 5 NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP HANDICAP BETTING Scotland with a 14 point start Twickenham, Kick-off 3.00pm, Live on BBC TV.

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Ireland with a 13 point start 10/11 Wales 14/1 Draw Ireland 10/11 n, Kick-off 3.00om, Live on BBC Wales. .1-5 pts ..7/1 .6-10 pts 14/1 .11-15 pts 25/1 ..50/1 .100/1 .21-25 ots

.1-5 pts..

..6-10 pts

.11-15 pts

.16-20 pts.

21-25 pts

20/1 Drawn Match

HANDICAP BETTING

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Trailing 5-3, Williams did | Source: Ski Club of Great Britain.



FOOTBALL 46

Bidding farewell to the game's wandering star

Imperial Call up and running for Cheltenham



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1 1997

Twickenham expects display of style and substance against Scotland

England seeking proof positive

rugby union have been occupied so frequently this season by the sport's administrators that it will be a relief to everyone when the players take over today. Phil de Glanville, who leads England against Scotland at Twickenham, has demanded a positive five nations' championship for the benefit of northern hemisphere rugby and now is his opportunity to show that Eng-land can contribute handsomely to it.

Having sat out the first weekend of the championship. England are champing at the bit to begin their defence of the five nations' trophy and to demonstrate to their critics that the halting steps forward taken before Christmas are lengthening into a confident

Indeed, for anyone who has cared to look, improvements were perceptible in the three pre-Christmas games, even if the modest showing against Argentina in December tended to obscure them. But it is important that further evidence is displayed today, both for the short-term development of this English team and to burnish the game's image. which has taken something of

a battering in recent times. The England players, of course, are well aware that contractual arrangements have yet to be confirmed with the Rugby Football Union and they are optimistic that those will be in place within the next formight. Ironically, this is not a problem which still affects Scotland who, this week, brought to 50 the number of players contracted directly to the union, though that did little enough to assist their cause in their disappointing championship display against Wales a formight ago. But there has been a breath

of spring on the game's playing side, even in the depths of winter, which the Twickenham crowd will hope can be reproduced even within the inhibiting confines of the say, within the inhibiting con-

FIVE NATIONS'

MATCHES TO COME: Today: England v Scotland, Wales v Ireland. February 15: Ireland v England, France v Wales, March

fines of the Anglo-Scottish series, which has tended towards the ordinary in terms of quality far too frequently.

The Save and Prosper international is the 114th in the series and England, who have held the Calcutta Cup since 1991, have not achieved a try since 1993, when Tony Under-wood crossed in what was something of a try-fest for the

family. Coincidentally, the younger Underwood returns to the five nations today after a season away, though his features may be masked by an unfamiliar scrum cap to pro-tect a forehead still stitched after a stray stud caught him in Newcastle's Pilkington Cup match against London Scot-

It is England's fervent hope that Underwood's talents, and those of Jon Sleightholme and Tim Stimpson, can be regularly employed against a Scotland team which, in some respects, looks improved from that beaten 34-19 by Wales, but may prove fallible in others. It is many years, for example, since Jason Leonard. who has won 51 caps, faced a front row of which he knew so little. Tom Smith makes his debut at loose-head for Scotland and his colleagues, Gra-ham Ellis and Mattie Stewart, boast three caps between

Smith and Stewart are said to be potent operators in the loose but the set-pieces remain vital to success. "It's still a war and, given that England's five has been the most consistent element of this season so far, Scotland may struggle at scrum and lineout. Even so it will be a relief for England if the two Leicester forwards, Graham Rowntree and Martin Johnson, demon-Estrate that they have put their problems of last week behind

mauled by Brive in the Heineken Cup final and de Glanville admitted his concern: "They were bound to be depressed afterwards but they have bounced right back into it." he said. You have to raise yourself for big games every week now, that's the

But the area most likely to determine the outcome will be the back row. England's new loose trio needs time to bed down but should be working off a solid platform; Scotland's has a familiar ring to it but the fitness of Ian Smith must be called into question. Smith and Gloucester, his club, have been at odds for most of this season and the flanker has played only a handful of first

XV games. He has been whisked back into the side after a thumb injury, both for his ability to follow Gregor Townsend and his influential decision-making, but the whole Scotland pack will need to galvanise themselves for Townsend to

four cheap English wickets

here, either Geoff Allott or

Heath Davis is likely to lea-

ture. Just possibly, both will be picked, for they offered an

aggression evident in none of

the home seam bowlers in

Neither is new to Test cricket. Allott, a left-armer,

played twice against Zimba-

bwe a year ago. Davis made

Trent Bridge in 1994. His only

victim was Alec Stewart and



England hope the Calcutta Cup will still have pride of place in their dressing-room after the match today

exert the magic he undoubtedly possesses in hands and feet. England will have identified him and the fluent Bryan Redpath as potential sources of danger and will seek to

he has not been chosen since.

Yesterday, on a surface that

the England batsmen ap-

peared to resent rather more

than the opposition, Davis

took three wickets in 12 balls to

leave the touring team on 57 for seven. One of his wickers

came from a vagary of the pitch, the others from discon-

certing pace. Davis, at least,

would have found the word

from Wellington encouraging.

groundsman at the Basin

Warwick Sisson is the

eliminate them.

Scotland's assault upon the be to win - the style, on which championship last season and his restoration ahead of Gary Armstrong may be overdue. England's primary objective, coming late into a championship from which they were

only a few months ago, must

so many words have been expended, can come later. Style is not a quality which can be turned on and off; it derives from individual and collective confidence and, most of all, from the success which should crown England's efforts today.

doubtful, for not only did they

bat subserviently here, they

also then bowled as if they

were on an entirely different, more placid, pitch. It was difficult to decide which aspect

of their second-day cricket was

John Emburey, the tour bowling coach, made a valiant

attempt to explain the dispari-

ty, suggesting that the greater

pace of the two New Zealand-

ers was ideally suited to the pitch. This was true enough, but it was not entirely reassur-

ing, especially if Sisson's word

the more depressing.

is to be believed.

☐ Will Carling, who plays at Twickenham today, said yesterday that he would probably turn down any invitation to tour South Africa with the British Isles this summer.

> Wales well-armed, page 50 Trying times, page 50

his loss of control, slammed

his cap to the ground as he

The most combative Eng-

lish batting came from Ronnie

Irani, whose muscular 40

averted a complete rout, and he then bowled a serviceable

retired to the outfield.

Blackburn shrug off thoughts of Eriksson's Italian job

By DAVID MADDOCK AND PETER BALL

IT SEEMS that barely a week goes by without another deni-al from Blackburn Rovers Football Club. This time it is over Sven Goran Eriksson, the manager elect, whom initially they denied was joining them. Now the sugges tion, from Italy, is that he will not be going there after ali. Eriksson, under contract to

Sampdoria until the end of the season, is wanted by Lazio, even though he has already signed a contract to join Blackburn on July L Yesterday Robert Coar, the dub chairman, moved swiftly to reject the idea that Eriksson would break his contract.

Reports from Italy sugge ed that Lazio had persuaded Eriksson to ask for his release by Blackburn, but, despite an obvious interest from Lazio. Coar countered: "It is absolute rubbish. The simple fact is that we have a written agreement with Sven that he will join us in July, and he will stick to that agreement. He has no opt-out clauses, no release clauses

Manchester United go into action today, leading the FA Carling Premiership for the first time since September. Arsenal, in second place, are away to Leeds United with the praise of their rivals ringing in their ears.

Yesterday Alex Ferguson and George Graham, the managers of the two Uniteds,

Rob Hughes

singled out Arsenal as the team to watch. "They have a lot of quality players, and they don't have many ints." Graham said. "With out question they are one of the fancied teams for the Premiership. I think they have every chance of winning

With his own team leading the field, Ferguson was understandably more cautious, but he suggested that Arsenal had a real advantage. They have the easiest programme, he said. "Up to a point, they have it in their own hands."

Leeds face Arsenal twice in the next four days, having been drawn to play them at Highbury in the fourth round of the FA Cup on Tuesday. In October Arsenal provided Graham with an uncomfortable return to Highbury, winning 3-0. They may expect to find it harder this time, but whether Leeds are yet in a position to extend them fully

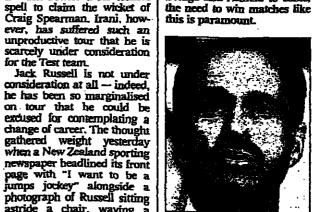
is questionable. Manchester United meet Southampton, who embarrassed them 6-3 on that same October day, but United are running into form while Southampton are licking their wounds after the Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final defeat by Stockport on Wednesday.

ĺц,

(Pagi

SHUMBE

Ferguson disclaimed any interest in revenge but, with visits to Highbury, Stamford Bridge and Anfield to come, the need to win matches like this is paramount.



TODAY'S TEAMS AT TWICKENHAM

T R G Stimpson (Newcastle) W D C Carling (Harlequins) P R de Glanville (Bath)* T Underwood (Newcastle)

P J Gravson (Northampton) A C T Gomarsali ((Wasos) G.C. Rowntree (Leicester) M P Regan (Bristol) J Leonard (Harlequins)

L B N Dallaglio (Wasps)

M O Johnson (Leicester) S D Shaw (Bristol) R A Hill (Saracens) T A K Roctber (Northampton/Army)

Referee: P O'Brien (N Zealand) REPLACEMENTS: 16 J C Guscott (Bath), 17 M J Catt (Bath), 18 A Healey (Leicester), 19 B B Clarke (Richmond), 20 D J Garforth (Leicester), 21 P B T Greening

FROM ALAN LEE

CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

IN WANGANUI

WANGANUI (second day of four): New Zealand A. with six

second-innings wickets in

hand, are 261 runs ahead of

SHORTLY before lunch-time

here yesterday, news came

through that the Wellington

groundsman had offered his predictions for the Test pitch

next week. He spoke of pace

and bounce, of batsmen hav-

ing to protect their heads and

wicketkeepers having to prac-

tise their agility. It was not, at

that moment, quite what Eng-

There was pace and bounce,

not all of it trustworthy, in the

pitch at Victoria Park, too, and

the England XI's batting was

rapidly disintegrating on it. By lunch-time they were all

England XI

SCOTLAND

15 R J S Shepherd (Metrose)

11 K M Logan (Stirling County)

M J Stewart (Northampton) P Walton (Newcastle)

A I Reed (Wasps) I R Smith (Gloucester) R I Watnwright (Watsonians)*

REPLACEMENTS: 18 S Hastings (Watsonians), 17 C M Cheirners (Metrose), 18 G Armstrong (Newcastel), 19 D S Muntro (Glasgow High/Ketvinside), 20 D I W Hitton (Bath), 21 S J Brotherstone

exacerbated by the boost that

it provided for the Test selec-

tion prospects of two fast

England's day, and conse-

quently their mood, was not destined to improve. Indeed,

after two sessions in the field

had seen their deficit swell to

intimidating proportions as

Llorne Howell supervised an

unbroken fifth-wicket stand of

86, it was hard to believe that

this largely inconsequential fixture had not damaged the

confidence that they will re-

These games may not in-

spire or motivate at an ad-

vanced stage of a tour, but

days as dire as this can create

a dangerous sense of drudg-

ery. "It won't do much for their

spirits," Steve Rixon, the New

Zealand coach, said with

New Zealand are to an-

nounce today their party for the Test and, after each took

quire in Wellington.

14 D A Stark (Metros 13 A G Stanger (Hawick) 12 B R S Eriksson (L Scottish)

10 G.P.J.Townsend (North'ton) B W Redpath (Meirose) T J Smith (Watsonians) D G Elfis (Currie)

The Melrose scrum half was the key component of

threatened with expulsion

New Zealand make their pitch for Wellington Reserve and, six days before the Test, he was surprisingly emphatic. "I would definitely bowl first if I won the toss," he said. "You would expect to have three or four down by funch on the first day, if I see the opening bassmen having to pull their heads out of the way of rising balls and the

front of his face, I will be

wicketkeeper taking the ball in

Whether the feeling will be shared by England seems

SCOREBOARD FROM WAMSHADI

NEW ZEALAND A: First innings 181 (M.) Home 64; C E W Silverwood 6 for 44) Home 64: C E W Silverwood e tot a Second Inrings

"D J Murray b Caddick
C M Spearman c Knight b Iran...
B Chandler c Atherton b Croft
M J Home low b Tufnol

Extras (b 2, to 4, nb 1)

FALL OF WICKETS 1-28, 2-84, 3-101, 4-101

C Z Harris not our ... LG Howell not out

Crost 19-4-38-1; Irani 6-1-11-1, White 4-0-20-0 ENGLAND XI: First limings N V Knott c Chandler b Allott ... 11
"M A Atherton c Mills b Davis ... 5
N hissaari t Harris b Davis ... 14
J P Crawley c Murray b Allott ... 5
C Whate c Chandler b Allott ... 7
R C trans c Chandler b Allott ... 40
R D R Craft c Horne in Davis ... 2

A R Caddick c and b Wiseman C E W Silvenwood c Chandler b Wiseman P C R Tutnell not out

BOWLING: Allott 15.3-6-44-4, Daws 14-8-22-4; Kennedy 7-2-23-0; Wiseman 8-2-13-2

caught up in the general malaise. His first-innings figures were six for 44 in 20

overs, but yesterday he comceded as many runs, without threatening a wicket, inside eight overs. He was mercifully rested after being struck for 25 runs from nine balls and,

Even Chris Silverwood, so on tour that he could be excused for contemplating a impressive on Thursday, was change of career. The thought gathered weight yesterday when a New Zealand sporting newspaper headlined its front page with "I want to be a jumps jockey" alongside a photograph of Russell sitting astride a chair, waving a whip. It was that kind of day.

for the Test team.

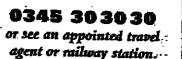
Jack Russell is not under consideration at all - indeed. he has been so marginalised

Graham: favours Arsenal

Central London to the centre of Paris or Brussels.

How many times have you arrived at the airport to find your journey isn't over? You're miles from the centre of town and you have to wait ages for a taxi. When you travel by Eurostar, you arrive in the heart of Paris or Brussels which, after all, is exactly where you want to get to.







SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1 1997



n turning 40 recently, I found myself turning into Martin Amis. This was nothing to do with a perfect set of American teeth. Nor, sadly, a fabulous Archeresque advance for a new novel. It was the panicky sense of wanting to trade in an old life for a new. one. If I'd been a man, I might well have done a bunk -- or, at the very least, bought a medallion and dyed my chest chair. Being a woman, of course, I did nothing at all.

There was a time when it was an exclusively female terrain of hot flushes and cold sweats, bad temper and loss of libido, and aching joints and thinning bones; a disagreeable, hormon-al fact of later life. But some where along the line men have nicked our menopause and transformed it into this racy, irresponsible, red-Ferrari thing. They have not only appropriated our territory but they have given it a new name: the mid-life crisis. And this crisis, if we believe the mythology of films and books, hits men a decade earlier than it does

vomen on the verge

We know all about the male mid-life crisis — that when one experiences something troubling for the first racy, glamorous, escapist thing. But why should time, to look for signs and clues to indicate that your feelings, women miss out on the fun, asks Ginny Dougary demands. Our elderly parents, mid-life crisis. Like a greedy no pram in the hall". To shed with fading powers and health, can be as needy of our attention

far from being unique, spring out of some universal well. It is always comforting to find an echo of your own predicament in other people's. But Trouble at Forty, until recently, has not been a woman's story. Is the female mid-life crisis — a state of mind, rather than something which happens to your body a new taboo? Is there something so profoundly disquieting about questioning the edifice of your life — in my case, one which is held up by the twin beams of career and parenthood - that it is too dangerous or unseemly to scrutinise the cracks in its framework?

There is the temptation.

This is a time when many women of my generation, even more I would suggest than men, can be swamped by life's

as our children. And in the most egalitarian relationships, it is often the women who oversee the care of their men's elderly relations, reverting to the traditional role of nurturer. as well as their own. Hurtling between the office and home, the school run at one end of the day, the hospital visit at the other, is pressure-cooker living.

It is hardly surprising that women - like men - sometimes feel the need to explode, to escape, recreate themselves, do something supremely selfish, have an adventure, have a

magpie, I steal other women's stories in the hope that the vicarious pleasure of reading about their explorations will somehow satisfy my own cravings. But, of course, it merely fuels them. I dream of Herculean journeys to remote, majestic places; travelling on my own, facing emotional and physical challenges, sloughing off an old layer of skin for a new, unjaded one. I long for the clean, white oblivion of Antarctica, "a space of the imagination", as the travel writer Sara Wheeler puts it in her new book, Terra Incognita, with

"no cities, no bank managers,

all responsibilities and commitments and climb the Himalayas, to be dirty and cold and furiously, invigoratingly alive.

The heroige of Anne Tyler's most recent novel, Ladder of Years, is a 40-year-old woman who takes a walk on a beach during a family holiday and keeps on walking - out of a life in which she feels invisible and into a new one. She is in mourning for her girlhood, as one reviewer put it, which she has never quite outgrown and for her children who have outgrown her. A similar theme

is pursued in Casting Off. Libby Purves's first novel, whose heroine, "wife and mother and pillar of the community", abandons ship, so to speak, by sailing away solo into the deep blue unknown. Rosie Thomas's two most recent books were about women running away from the mundane

to embrace fresh challenges. Novels are a form of escapism, as much for the author as the reader, but if they are any good at all they are also antiescapist: nudging one to confront the dilemmas and disatisfactions of the human condition which one might find more cosy to ignore.

Rosie Thomas, deciding that her heroines were trying to tell her something, did do a bunk (with the agreement of her supportive family) and took off for a year to conquer Mount Everest, leap off a helicopter, James Bond-like, on a pair of

skis in the hushed wilderness of British Columbia, and go scuba-diving off the Cayman Islands. I read about her adventures with the usual mixture of "good-on-you-girl" glee and "lucky bugger" envy. (Not many women could afford such extravagant forms of escape.)

But I noticed, buried among the tales of fear and exhilaration and derring-do, these quitter, revealing lines: "After 20 years. I did yearn for a space or time or experience that was just for me. I can't speak for anyone else, but I suspect the same is true for most of my friends and many thousands of other wives and mothers."

It struck me immediately as odd that the novelist didn't know how her close friends felt that she only suspected they shared her need to break away and redefine themselves.

Most female buddies are never happier than when they are picking over and analysing the minutiae of each other's lives - and my circle of friends is no exception. But I realised that, like Rosie Thomas whose

Continued on page 2

AS COUNTRY LIFE 6 PROPERTY 7-9 FEATURES 12 HOME LIFE

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hoosing a pair of swimming trunks is one of those decisions that reveals so much of a man's taste: it makes him feel emotionally naked. Trunks are about stripping off, bare chests, preening around a pool If you think a man is a narcissist on the basis of his designer suit, he will seem many times more vain if he wears overelaborate swimwear.

Sports shops present an over-whelming array of options. Designers even have swimwear ranges for men. The idea of a "range" of trunks to choose from is nosebleed stuff.

Women can hedge their bets by having several swimming costumes. A jazzy all-in-one for swimming lengths, a bikini for sun lounging, and perhaps a suede Gucci two-piece for never getting wet, flouncing around changing

CDs and fetching Philip Morris Ultras. Catch a man with more than one pair of trunks in his wardrobe, however, and he is instantly suspect. Possibly French. He will be the sort who prefers to show off his swallow dive rather than bomb into the middle of a pool. He will do 50 lengths before breakfast rather than spend the day playing Jaws with a Life. He will find his soulmates in the Mediterranean, where they pa-rade up and down beaches in tight red trunks, Donald Duck T-shirts. swinging their handbags towards

Climatic difference has much to do with the British man's fear of trunks. Unless you are a regular user of health clubs or municipal baths, trunks are to be dusted off once or twice a year for foreign holidays. The British are not Brazilians or Australians who pull

SERIOUS SHOPPING MEN'S SWIMWEAR

on trunks and T-shirts as we might a string vest.

This branch of climato-cultural theory, however, does not account for those Germans and Geordies who favour the crotch-clinging posing pouch. It is unfortunate for Speedo, a company which makes a whole array of doubtless comfortable, stylish sportswear, that it should have given its name to this agonising article.

Speedos are for the professional rather than the gentleman amateur. They are for men who shave their chests for speed in the water in Olympic competition. To wear a pair of Speedos then belly flop into the pool is like turning up for a game of tennis in the full Pete Sampras collection only to double-



BY PHILIP **DELVES BROUGHTON**

fault all your service games and whack your own head when attempting a smash. Only worse. In a pair of Speedos, your tackle is snugly contoured for universal perusal. It is a relief, then, to turn to the more popular styles of swimming shorts.

Argument for these ranges over how long the shorts should be: mid-thigh, just above the knee or over the knee. Over the knee and you not only end up looking excessively body-shy but the sheer weight of the water-logged trunks becomes a nuisance. Dive into the pool in long trunks and you risk them bobbing to the surface sev-eral metres behind you.

Just-above-the-knee shorts have their advocates. These are usually fat men, often prep school headmasters with unusual sporting facility. Their trunks are from the Stanley Matthews era and are as useful for cooking a barbecue or

bowling googlies in the Old Boys match as for swimming in. Which leaves the mid-thigh model, easily the most popular trunks of the modern era. Mid thigh means mid to lower thigh rather than mid to upper. My own

are plain green and have a large Swoosh emblem on the right buttock. They are made of some synthetic material which dries quickly, though friends swear by cotton. Inside is that white netting which keeps everything in place.

They replaced a pair of light blue knee-grazers, bought some years ago for under \$10 in a Florida supermarket, which had orange crocodiles crawling all over them. Though these lasted for several years, they were definitely in that sub-category of emergency trunks grabbed at airports, or beach shops from inbetween in-flatable Cadillacs and dusty Swing Tennis sets. However ugly these emergency trunks are though, they are preferable to swimmin in boxer shorts, which not only turn swiftly transparent but, with their open By, leave every opportu-nity for unintended exhibitionism until small children start to scream.

In times past, ancients in need of a swim would either strip off completely or just hoick up their loincloths and wade in. Bathing costumes emerged to protect Vic-torian modesty, with broad stripes and flannel stretching from shoulder straps to knee under the bristle

of an imperial moustache. The choice these days can be daunting, and the risks high unless one abides by a few simple rules: play it sale, play it smart and avoid anything that resembles women's underwear.

Giles Coren is away.

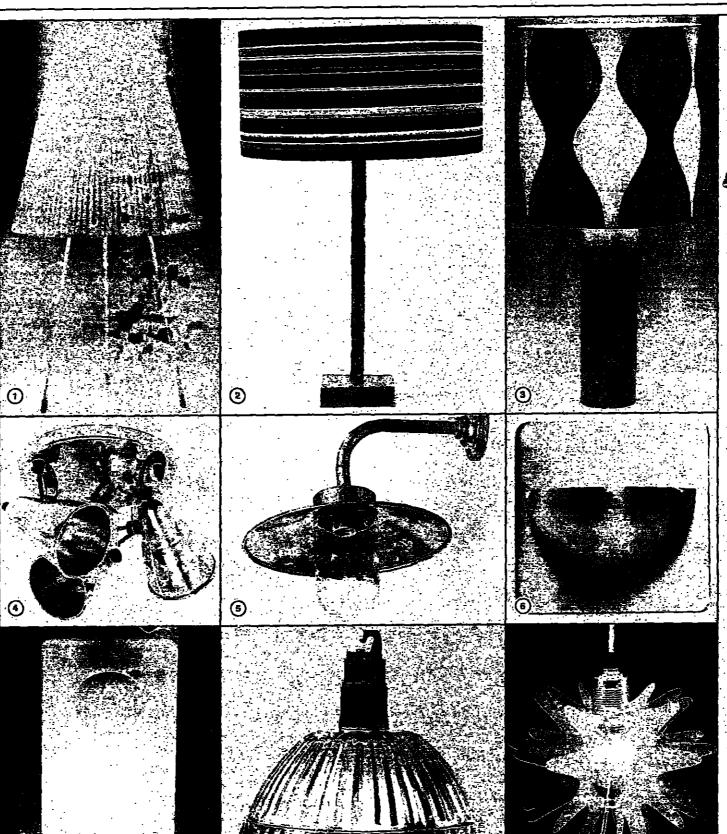
Charge of the light brigade



LIGHTING is one of the most important aspects of home decorating, though most people rarely give it much thought. The way a room or space is lit determines its atmosphere, whether it is a living room, kitchen or bathroom, and there is now a vast array of styles on offer. SUE PARKER switches on to th best lights around.

ABOVE: Best and Lloyd desk lamp, £150, from the Conran Shop, 81 Fulham Road, London SW3 (0171-589 7401)

RIGHT: 1 Apollo table light, £19.95, from The Source, 26-40 Kensington High Street, W8 (0171-937 2626). 2 Striped drum shade on bamboo lamp base, £86, made to order by lampshade-maker Robert Wyatt (0181-530 6891). 3 The Prada-esque table light, £120, from Space, 214 Westight of Stripe 1614 1616 16171-229 6533). 4 Gotham, three-spot aluminium ceiling light, £45, from Bhs (0171-262 3288 for branches). 5 Wall-mounted galvanised outdoor light, £54.95, from The Scurce, as before. 6 Brushed stainless steel Duet wall lights, £195 a pair, from London Lighting, 135 Fulham Road, SW3 (0171-589 3612). 7 The Lio light, £77, designed by Sebastian Bergne, from Viaduct, 1-10 Summers Street, EC1 (0171-278 8456). 8 Large Pudding pendant light, £203, from Ruth Aram. 65 Heath Street, NW3 (0171-431 4008). 9 D light, £35, from Aero, 96 Westbourne Grove, W8 (0171-211 1950). 10 Constanza floor light, £119, from Habitat (0645 334433 for branches).



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continued from page I agent was the catalyst for her journey. I had only explored these vague stirrings of discontent with strangers: or work acquintances.

Perhaps it was too threatening or destabilising - altugether too close to home - to invite one's friends in to inspect the damage.

etonce I cast out the net, it seemed that aimost everyone I asked had given some private thought to the subject. One woman, whose husband had traded in a high-flying career in Canada for an uncertain future in England, gave a wry smile and said: Most women are too busy propping up their husband's mid-life crises to have one of their own."

My oldest and least introspective friend, or so I thought, had the whole forty-something landscape devastatingly map-ped out in her head. "It's the first time in our lives when we haven't got something positive to look forward to," she said. In our late teens, there was the freedom of university, then the challenge of our first jobs and the excitement of explor-ing London, the thrill of the first big relationship, the wedding day, setting up home, the birth of the first child, but now. Ther voice trailed away, there isn't the same visceral bond with the children. There are times when I feel like their taxi driver. The only firsts left on the horizon are divorce and death."

Every story is both different and alike. Sometimes they are mirror images of the same thing. When you hit the big four-Ohh — the elegaic sigh of its its regretful, dying fall — you can no longer, among other things, qualify as a Young British Novelist. If you are a matter and one look like mother and do not look like Paula Yates, you are likely to be called matronly. And if you do look like Yates at 40, you will be called "girlish", only as a form of oblique insult.



Life begins at 40, the opti-mists say, but for some of my single and childless friends, this mid-life birthday was more wake than celebration.

One friend told me that on turning 40 she could only think that she might never fall in love again, or be loved. Another more sanguine pal is so happy that she longs to share her good fortune with another person.

My married friends, mean-while, cast a wistful glance back to the time when they were single and child-free. For one friend, it is imbued with all the heady, high-octane rush of being youthful and desired. For her, the word "forty" was like a death knell, ringing out your invisibility to the world "to be in the fort. the world. "It rubs in the fact that your best years are be-hind you," she says. "No one's ever going to whistle at you in the street again, or catch your eye in the Tube."

I was surprised by this reaction to turning 40. My friend says that in her work as a designer, image is all important. You have to look sharp and hip and youthful or you

'I was totally unprepared for the sudden, brutal eclipse of the laughingeyed party girl I had thought was me'

won't get the work - which is why she sends her husband, who is five years her junior, to pitch to new clients. For her, being 40 obliferated every trace of the shimmering, sexy girl she once was.

Tor me, it was motherhood that extinguished my sense of girlhood my sense of girlhood — which I know is absurd because I was a very ungirly 30 when I became pregnant. But it was only around the time of my fortieth birthday when I felt the first ripples of rebellion and realised - how-ever ludicrous or ungrateful it seemed, when I have so much - that all this time, in some secret place, I had been mourning the burial of that young, carefree self. Motherhood was like being jerked into adulthood. I was totally unprepared for the sudden. brutal eclipse of the laughingeyed party girl which I had thought was me. And now I rather think that all those early months of weeping, which we put down to postnatal exhaustion, were partly

recklessness writ small. Cover photographs by PETER MICHOLLS/PICTURES, Montage by DANIEL BAMBRIDGE. Picture above shows Ginny Dougary at 26

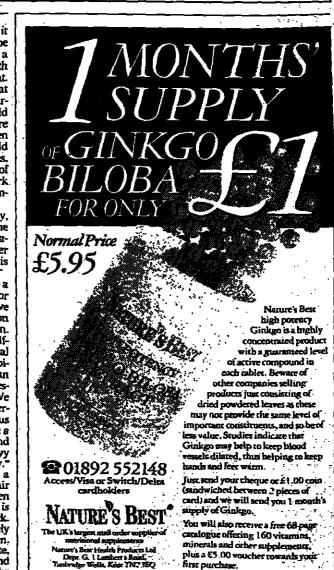
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to-be explored level, because it seems an act of defiance to be unhappy when you have a beautiful, healthy baby - with loss and a sort of bereavement. The women I spoke to at Relate and the London Marriage Guidance Council told me that these feelings were entirely "normal". Women tend to put themselves on hold in their twenties and thirties, when it is as much as many of us can do, juggling with work, and very young children, sim-ply to get through the day. What has changed, they say, is that women, have become

more open about their expectations. They are no longer prepared to say, at 40: "This is my lot — I must accept this." Renata Olins, who became a marriage guidance counsellor in 1967, says that things have changed out of all recognition for huge numbers of women. "With greater levels of self-confidence and financial strength, comes greater ambition, so that as many woman as men are asking the ques-tion, 'Am I missing out?' We hear about someone's wonderful new lover or fabulous

adventure and we're stuck in a three-bedroomed semi - and there's a wistfulness and envy and sense of lost opportunity I have yet to buy myself a motorbike, or dye my hair blonde or have a collagen implant. But the party girl is making a tentative comeback. At 40, she has not entirely forgotten bow to have fun. There have been some late. late nights; some dancing and some carousing. There may be something in the air. The other night we had a dinner party, and at midnight — for the first time in ages - no one made a move. Four hours later, the guests staggered off into predawn London. Perhaps this is how, in the end, we will survive my mid-life crisis harmless acts of rebellion.

● Ginny Dougary's new



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Notice of the Company

Pedal power pushes on

The calf-length classic looks set to replace leggings as the perfect throw-on, says Heath Brown



comfortable pair of leggings has been the perfect throw-on garment for the past decade and a half, but until now a

This year, the pedal pusher looks set to take over this role as high-street chains and designers have reintroduced the alf-length trouser style to their

Cool for spring or summer, r if you are grabbing a bit of winter sun, they are comfortable and easy to wear with most casual separates.

Associated with the 1950s Riviera looks of Grace Kelly and Brigitte Bardot, pedal pushers were the young girl's weekend staples. Styles in cot-ton were sported by trendy beatnicks and teenagers, and satin versions could be found peeking out beneath shortened puffball evening skirts.

Today's pedai pushers can be dressed up or down, but the bulk of the current selection veer towards casual daywear. They make perfect holidaywear in cotton or linen and can be worn with flat sandals and

mules when on shopping treks, or barefoot on the beach. For a dressier look, platform shoes and higher heels look good with separates in more huxurious textiles, such as a satin effect or fabrics with a

hint of sparkle. A modern one-shoulder, assymetric top updates the look, or a 1970s-style boob-tube worn with tighter styles gives a

new Charlie's Angels feel. For a more casual, everyday look, simple polo necks and fitted jersey shirts can smarten up the pedal pusher, but heavi-er, bulky separates are best avoided, because they are too top-heavy for such a leggy style.

horter, above-the-knee pedal pushers are available, but the calflength version is more flattering for most people. The cut can be loose or tight, according to your body shape. and small side splits at the hem are optional. Tights, however, are a definite no-no.

For the younger girl, a fresher feel can be achieved with pedal pushers teamed with short, tight singlets, bright, tight T-shirts or fine knit cotton sweaters. For the older, more voluptuous woman, V-necks and longer length sweaters are an easy and comfortable choice.

An alternative, smarter look for the office can be achieved with a short, belted jacket. This can look flattering in softer fabrics, with the emphasis on the waist.

> Ail photographs by Richard Burns Hair and make-up by Sally Kvalhelm Styling by Amandip Uppal Dummy supplied by Stockmen London 9 Dallington Street, EC1 (0171-251 6943)



THREE OF A KIND

Forget lacy negligées and floaty nighties — pyjamas are the thing, in crisp white or a muted check. And 100 per cent cotton, looser fitting styles are more practical for bedtime. H.B.

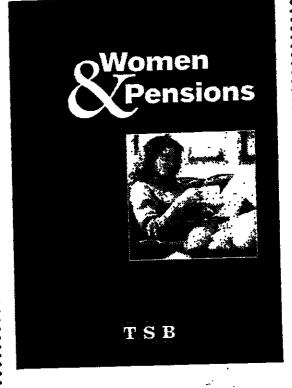


Fine white cotton pyjamas, £98, The White House, 51 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-629 3521)

Blue and white check pyjamas. 621.99, River Island, branches nationwide (0181-998 8822)

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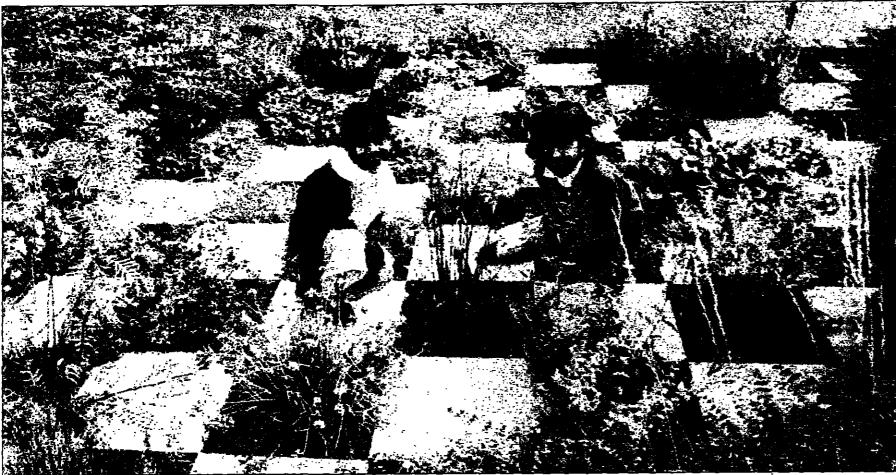
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putt!!

Jane Owen rounds up ideas about what's new and what's happening in the gardening world this month



Pupils at Sandfield County Primary School, near Guildford, Surrey, have livened up their playground with help from the charity Learning Through Landscapes

The class of '97 is going green

UNTIL we moved to the country. my children went to a primary school in north London. The school was excellent as a place of learning but the grounds were a dismal gloom of Tarmac and concrete until the school's parents' committee transformed a long strip of dereliction into a "secret garden" of trees and flowers and a pond for the children. Their work softened its appearance, even though there was no grass to be seen.

Now the charity Learning Through Landscapes is inviting schools throughout Britain to do something with their school grounds by joining in School Grounds Day on May 2. To qualify, schools must complete the entrance forms by February 28. Entrants will get an information pack.

• Learning Through Landscapes. Third Floor, Southside Offices, The Law Courts, Winchester SO23 9DL i) 1962 846258).

Spud special

EVEN IF you do not have a garden you can still grow potatoes by stabbing drainage holes in a dust-bin, filling it with compost, adding three seed tubers in early April, and harvesting about olb of new potatoes in July. You can discover more things to do with spuds next Saturday when the Henry Doubleday Research Association holds its Porato Day, 10am-4.30pm. About 100 varieties of seed potatoes will be on sale, and there will be a cookery demonstration.

 Henry Doubleday Research Association. Ryton Organic Garden. Coventry CV8 3LG (01203 303517).

Trust holidays

RENTING OUT holiday cottages around the country has earned the National Trust a welcome £4 milGARDENER'S **UPDATE**

lion over the past five years. Having stayed at one in Cornwall - close to the Glendurgan gardens. near Helston - I can believe this. Many of the cottages are in beautifully kept gardens, and you have the high moral ground of contributing to the maintenance of our heritage. For a brochure, call 01225 791133.

Little stinker

YEARS ago I bought some 6X fertiliser for the exhausted soil in my garden. It is made from chicken manure and is so rich it can overdo the nitrogen, but it was what my garden needed. However, I swore never to use it again because of the stench - far worse than conven-

tional farmyard manure.
Now 6X has produced an odourless peliet form. Still pure muck and organic, though pretty expensive, it costs £4.99 for 5kg — as opposed to the fibrous, stinking 6X selling at £9.75 for £5kg. Mail order for fibrous only: 01494 792229.

Talking shop

THE TIMES gardener, Stephen Anderton, will be talking to the Garden History Society about the newly restored gardens at Belsay Hall in Northumberland, where he was head gardener until last year. His is one in a series of six garden history lectures on various landscapes from Europe to America by such speakers as Dr Christopher Thacker and Jim Reynolds. The lectures are being held on Wednesdays from February 5 to March 12, starting at 6pm, at the Scientific

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should have an

Society's Lecture Theatre, New Burlington Place, London WI. Those in the know should insist that Anderton sings at the end of

his lecture - his ballads are to

gardening what Private Eye is to

• Further information from the Garden History Society, 77 Concress Street, London ECIM 68P (0171-608 2409). Tickets 17.

Lion king

politics.

FANCY a 9.4m (about 3ift) petrified lion in your garden? Worried about the weight?

Capital Garden Products fake them in glass fibre — weight 9kg (1921b) — and fill them with (192Tb) concrete once in position. They are finished in "stone", "terracotta" or bronzange (antique bronze effect) and cost £960 for a pair. Ring 01580 201092 for your nearest stockist or mail order.

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FIND OF THE MONTH

THE TUEFEL, or "devil", is the latest way to churn up the earth. It looks like Lucifer's pronged fire tong and, to use it, you adopt an action as if you were opening and closing a water mains stopcock in the road. The tool breaks up clay and clears brambles as would a rotovator, but works in small spaces and is less back-breaking than a garden fork. However, the Tuefel cannot turn the soil in the same way. The Maxi Teufel, which has four sharp prongs — two on each side of a central spike, which holds the tool in place during the swivel action — costs £39.95. The Midi Teufel has one prong on either side of the spike and costs £34.95. The Mini Teufel, designed for window boxes, costs £5.99. For garden centre stockists, call the distributor, Sandholzer (UK). on 01625 526123. Alternatively, Sandholzer will sell readers the tools with free postage and packing.



PLANT OF THE MONTH

ECHEVERIA SUBRIGIDA. These fleshy succulents are especially appealing at this time of year when the dramatic rosettes of leaves, about six inches across, defy wintry windowsills.

Subrigida has spectacular, flat, blue-white leaves and forms a cool pool of elegance in the middle of a vulgar, massed Primula obconica in purple, cerise, pink and white. If a leaf is bruised it curis and withers, unlike other echeverias, which propagate easily from leaf and stem. This is why it is almost impossible to buy, even from specialist nurseries such as Southfields, in Lincolnshire, which stocks 35 varieties but cannot sell subrigida this year, at least. However, the nursery has two mother plants producing seed and hopes to be able to sell some small subrigidas

Southfields Nurseries, Bourne Road, Morton, Bourne, Lincolnskire PE 10 ORH (01778 570168).



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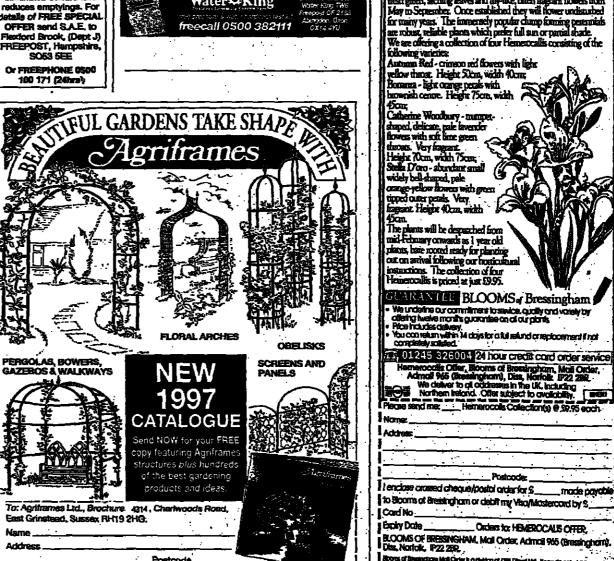
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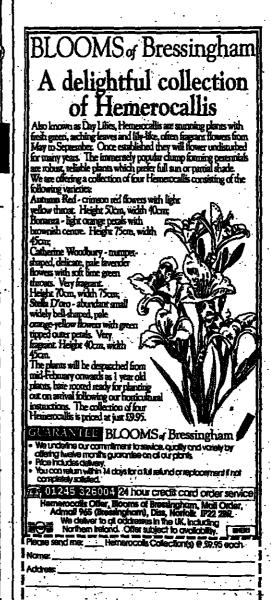
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Putting bulbs out to grass

Flowers need careful planting to create a natural effect in lawns. Nigel Colborn offers a few tips

bulbs and grassland was made in heaven. Nothing could be more natural. In the subalpine meadows of the Pyrenees in spring wild hoop-penicoat narcissus grow thickly enough to dust the landscape with gold.

In the autumn pastureland of the Vosges, lilac-mauve blooms of colchicums erupt And further afield, South Afri-ca's grasses shelter a rich mix of freesias, ixias, agapanthus and orange or purple lachenalias. Yet ask a gar-dener in Britain what we can naturalise and the answer will probably be limited to daffodils and crocus.

To the unimaginative, naturalising daffodils simply means planting them in grass, but how can they be made to look truly natural? And how does one manage grass if mowing will destroy the bulbs? Leave it uncut, and the lawn becomes a tussocky mess; cut too early and none of

your bulbs will survive. The aim must be to create a wild habitat in microcosm.

Most natural grassland carries an assortment of species, but a garden needs to be more than a mere imitation of the wild. You have to tweak, adjust and, above all, enrich. To a collection of European bulbs that might form the basis of a naturalised area, you could add such exotica as North American erythroniums, wild Eurasian tulips and even cultivated hybrid daffodils without losing the effect of a wild habitat.

Tastes differ but the time to begin to compile your "want" list starts now, as the bulbs begin to bloom, rather than being seduced by the lurid plant portraits that accompany dry bulbs in autumn displays at the garden centres.

Take care, though, as you walk among bulb-impregnated turf in February. Later species may still be invisible,

Arranging the planting to look wild presents a challenge. Experts may tell you to scatter bulbs by throwing them about the turi and planting them where they fall. A simplistic approach that works provided you stick to the falling pattern of the bulbs and plant them individually and in groups of differing sizes. This takes effort, but the alternative of

WEEKEND TIPS

Plant deciduous trees and shrubs this month. especially fruit trees. Order plugs and plantiets for spring delivery, where required for container displays.

Complete oiling or other treatments of wooden garden furniture, so it has time to soak in completely before spring. Spray outdoor neaches with Bordeaux mixture before the buds swell, to avoid leaf curl. Falien or dead holly leaves may be put bamboo, to stop squirrels nibbling the young shoots in spring,

lifting slabs of turf and planting groups of bulbs beneath them results in an unnaturallooking display of clumps.

drops and aconites - these can be moved now while in full flower without any damage. Some gardening gurus re-commend feeding with a high potash fertiliser as bulbs

grow, but that is unnecessary for those in grass. All that is

needed, after five or six years,

Small bulbs cannot be thrown — you would never see them again - but it is not difficult to imitate a similar randomness. As for snow-

can come snakeshead fritillaries - perfect companions for cowslips - and the indestructible Spanish bluebell. To achieve that long run of

but their young shoots are is to lift congested clumps, easily damaged if trodden on. divide the bulbs and replant. Although planting mechan-ics are straightforward, the artistic side demands flair. At its simplest level, the aim is to maximise spring colour, but an artistic gardener will be canny enough to extend the season forwards into summer and backwards through winter to the preceding autumn. A run through might begin with September coichicums, or such delicate autumn cro-

cuses as the bluish-mauve Crocus speciosus. Snowdrops are winter things, but an enchanting Greek sub-species of the common one - Galanthus nivalis ssp reginae-olgae pops up its flowers, sans foliage, during autumn. Admittedly, these can look incongruous among falling leaves, but a bunch of snowdrops on St Luke's day (October 18) is terrific for one-upmanship.

cale is crucial to success. Many parks and gardens people ruin their naturalising by shoving in wodges of huge daffodils or big Dutch crocus. Dramatic as these are, they blot out the delicate treasures that are necessary to extend and enhance the wild effect. Better to stick to species crocus -- Crocus chrysanthus, C. sieberi and so on — and to use such small, elegant narcissus varieties as 'February Gold' or, better still, genuine wild daffodils, Narcissus pseudonarcissus. Soon after these

colour and charm without losing control of the grass presents a difficult challenge. Countryside grass tends to be grazed, or is on such poor soil that it stays short naturally. In a garden there has to be a cutting regime, even if it is limited to the summer period. The easiest approach seems to be to



The bluish-mauve Crocus speciosus is perfect for creating a wild look to grassland

mow when the daffodil leaves have withered, usually early July. The first cut can be difficult, but the ugliness of the newly shorn patch soon transforms to green and, if regul-arly cut with blades set at maximum height, will not harm

the plants among the grasses. Once autumn bulbs begin to flower, mowing has to stop, but grass can grow surprisingly long before witter arrives. A final cut in early December may therefore be necessary, even if this damages the last of the autumn

Experts warn against mowing when frost is likely, but for a meadow, severe frost on newly cut grass matters not a jot. If you feel this regime is too untidy, you can still naturalise bulbs for winter and spring. but restore the lawn for summer. The Royal Horticultural Society says that daffodils cut back six weeks after flowering will bioom reasonably well the following year. So you can have colour from late December, with such snowdrops as

Galanthus elwesii, through to

mid-April, when early bloom-

ing narcissus species, such as

Narcissus tazetta or the lemon-flowered miniature 'Hawera', reach their peak. With that regime, mowing can start in late May - tidier, but you lose out on such fragrant latecomers as jonguils and pheasant eve narcissus. Meadow-style naturalising

is rich with possibilities for special effects. You can try smart colour combinations the golden yellow mini narcissus "Tête-à-tête' set among deep blue Scilla siberica for instance — or you could tinker with strict colour schemes over the whole area.

GARDEN ANSWERS



replies to readers' letters

How can I raise large numbers of the foliage plant Helichrysum Silver Bush? I want to add two to each of my 50 hanging baskets, which would cost me £100 to buy as plantlets in April. I have a heated greenhouse and sodium lighting. — E.C. Thomas, Paignton, Devon.

Helichrysums make excellent grey foils for more colourful planting in pots and baskets. But you must always plan for large numbers of anything. If you really want your plants this year, buy 20 plants in April. grow them hard and fast under glass, and plunder them for tip cuttings in May. Both parent plants and cuttings will be ready to go outside in June. Alternatively, if you can wait until next year, buy just a few plantlets, grow them on. and take all your cuttings in late summer, keeping them cool enough to stand still in winter under glass.

An old yew tree we An old yew man removed, with the stump ground out, has left a lot of soil mixed up with bits of wood and roots. Could this area be used to plant a circle of roses? — Mrs E.A. Bird, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire.

A if the grinder has done a good job, you could plant what you like where the trunk stood. But remember there will still be a large area of garden full of finer roots, around the circle you had ground out, and ground-out area will be impoverished.

Take out a third of the loose soil, and replace it with manure or compost, leave it fallow for this year. and plant in the autumn.

I have a 50-yard chainlink boundary adjoining a playing field and want to plant an ever-green prickly hedge or. better still, a prickly ever-green man-high shrubbery. What could I plant to provide foliage colour and what flowering climbers could I add? — R.J. Brake, Combe Down, Bath,

Think hard before you plant a prickly hedge; the clippings are foul to dealwith and often lead to wheelbarrow punctures. Behind solid chainlink fencing you could plant an evergreen screen. Would a hedge of mixed hollies be a compromise? Choose carefully, because many fancy varieties - green and variegated — are spineless. Common holly is the most spiny.

If you really want a fast, vicious, spiny hedge plant Berberis stenophylla, which has narrow leaves, arching growth and orange flowers. You could add a few tamer berberis to the front of 2 holly hedge — species such as Berberis verruculosa, B. julianae and B. darwinii.

Solid evergreen hedges tend to be shaded out and made patchy by vigorous climbers, and gentler climbers find the competition from the hedge difficult Why not plant an instant screen of self-twining hops on the chainlink for the first. few years? And plant some colourful shrubs in front of your prickly ones?

• Readers should write to: Garden Answers. Weekend. The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. We regret it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that

HOMES & GARDENS



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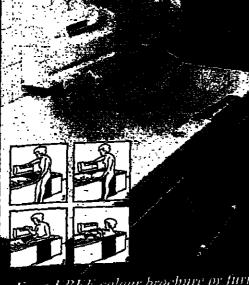




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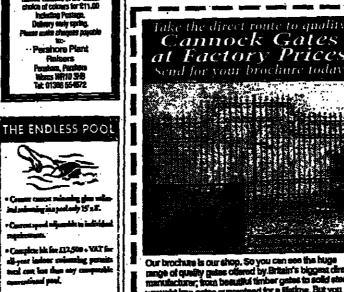
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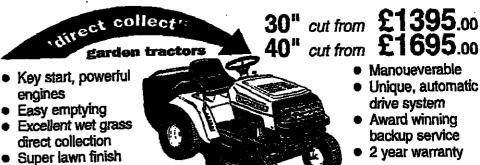
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6 · country life

This month, readers question the importance of sportsmen in the countryside, explain the joys of a privy and find a use for turkey feathers

The balance between predator and prey

DOWN TO **EARTH**



PAUL HEINEY

nother month, another rich crop of letters. Thank you for them. They may not all be acknowledged or printed, but they are all read and enjoyed. This month they divide into three neat piles. two dealing with what might be called personal comfort, and the third addressing issues of wider importance. Let us begin with the weighties.

The issue arose a month ago as a result of a letter from Christopher Pryor of Sheffield on the importance of sportsmen in the countryside. He wrote:

Do |well-meaning urban conservationists] not realise that the countryside looks as it does today as a result of true conservationists: field sportsmen and women who have always known how important it is to maintain the delicate balance between predator and prey?

In reply to which I raised a question: if we hitherto allowed the balance of nature to rest safely in the hands of the country sportsmen, what has happened to make us lose that trust? Is it something about the sportsmen that has changed?

Strangely, there has been a silence from the sportsmen, but not from those who have lived long in the countryside and are well placed to witness change. Marcus Judd, now retired and living in Wickham Market, Suffolk, writes:

My father lived a country life and, when not tending his garden, milking or delivering milk, he roamed the fields with his shotgun. The shooting was free. The game was not artificially reared but naturally regenerated. In order to shoot it, my father had to know the countryside, the habits and habitat of his prey. He shot with care, always leaving some for next week and always shot at the end of the range to reduce the amount of shot in a bird. I sense that things are very different now. Game birds are seen as a crop or budget centre, thus the nature of the sport changes along with those participating.

the season, but do not shoot. It is good cheap meat. Tomorrow I shall eat a mallard costing £1.40 stuffed with the sloes from this year's gin, which of course came free from the hedgerows (the sloes.



Shooting might receive a better reception if there appeared to be a better reason for it than "sport". One reader suggested controlled shooting of wildfowl such as Canada geese for sale

He may be on to something here. Is it because shooting is now for pleasure, not sustenance that sportsmen are seen in a different light? There were several letters which suggested that shooting might receive a better reception if there appeared to be a better reason for it than sport". Mrs Thiel of Reading writes:

On a Devonshire farm I visit, I saw a flock of about 200 Canada geese take up residence in a field of winter wheat which they proceeded to eat. The farmer shot Equally telling is a revelation in his opening paragraph where he writes:

I eat game two or three times a week in the controlled shooting for sale was allowed - and would this not be more like conservation than the present state

> Speaking personally, I would happily eat a marauding goose providing the num-

ber shot was controlled - which in wildfowling it usually is by virtue of the birds being far more cunning than the guns. Those horrified at the thought and fearful that a species would be wiped out should remember that the only reason the pheasant flourishes is because it is the object of sportsmen's attention.

Perhaps if Delia Smith were to cast her magic spell over the Canada goose, farmers could profitably rid themselves of a pest and we could eat poultry which has not spent its entire life in a stinking

Where is the flaw in this? Alas the weak link is us, the consumers, who, smitten with a new taste, would then demand it in large quantities; every day of the year, and cheaply. Then would come the Canada goose farms to feed the supermarket-led demand. It has happened with deer.

To matters of equal, if rather more personal importance. I wrote some

millennium by restoring to the countryside the privy - the outside lavatory. I regret that architects have been slow to come forward with designs, but readers have been swift with their support.

Audrey Vincombe, who writes from Greenwich, loathes the planned millennium dome and suggests I adopt that design for my privy because it is fit for nothing else. She adds: I had an old cousin, a botanist, who

her chamber pot to her compost heap. Uric acid is essential for good compost, she told me. All power to your elbow.

And Jean Cowley, from Northallerton in

Our privy was situated across a clean yard (albeit down five steep steps) and tacked on to a row of outhouses, facing

weeks ago of my wish to celebrate the south, discreetly, round a corner. When cooking meals for six I could dash across and cool off, picking a rose on the way, and smelling the honeysuckie draped over the pantiled roof. And it was lovely for the children, who were thrust outside hatever the weather.

The privy — good for the planet, good for the body, good for the soul. I shall not let

by writing that it is a useless bird, fit for nothing but stuffing. This was in the context of my new feather bed which is filled with goose down because turkey will not do. I had hoped that all the turkey feathers that go to waste every Christmas could be put to better use.

The Reverend Dowding of Burnley says that "feather beds are the work of the devil", so his wife writes to tell me. "because they are so comfortable that they encourage slothfulness". He is dead right. The feather bed is making sinners of us all in this household.

But I was wrong about turkey feathers. Martin Taylor of Pens and Feathers in Longridge, Lancashire, writes in a beautiful hand:

Turkey feathers do have a use — to calligraphers. Each wing has, on the leading edge, a number of pinion this campaign drop. feathers and these can be cured and cut Finally, I have done down the turkey to make quill pens. We sell quills and the feathers and these can be cured and cut demand is weighted in favour of the

To prove it, he kindly sent me one and this column has been written using it. Your letters are always welcome, but before removing a turkey feather to write them, ask the turkey nicely.

Letters are published on the first Saturday of every month. Write to Paul Heiney. Weekend, The Times, I Pennington Street,

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Meet the mandarins of Berkshire

I WAS walking past a lake in Berkshire recently when a girl sitting on the bank asked. "Are you a birdwatcher?" She had evidently seen the field glasses dangling from my neck. I replied that I was, and she said: "Am I going mad, or did I just see a parrot go whizzing over the lake?"
"You're not mad," I said —

for I had seen it, too.

The startling bird was a rose-ringed parakeet -- which was called a ring-necked parakeet last time I wrote about it here, but which has since changed its official name to this more romantic version. Rose-ringed parakeets, which are green birds with a pink neckmark, a long tail and a screeching cry, have recently established themselves here in small colonies, mainly in the South. Their ancestors are Asian birds which must have been brought here and then

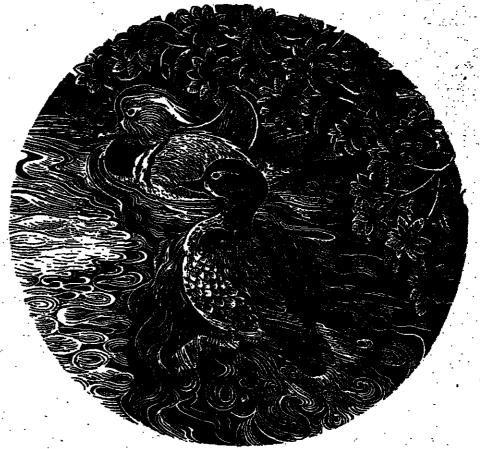
escaped or been released. While the girl and I were talking. I was able to point out to her two other birds of similar origin — a pair of mandarin ducks swimming about near some overhanging rhododendrons on the far side of the lake.

They, too, are now officially on the British list, in the "C" category which is defined as established feral birds that are self-maintaining". The word "feral" is applied to nonnative birds that have gone wild in this country.

darin ducks when I was a schoolboy. At that time they were not on the British list, nor to be found in any bird book, and a schoolfriend and I were greatly puzzled by them. We would see them shooting through the trees around these wooded Berkshire lakes, whistling loudly, and eventually we got a good view of them on the water.

I first came across man-

That was an astonishing moment. We had never imagined birds like them. The drakes are spectacular, with two big orange appendages that look like sails or tents rising above their wings, or-ange cheeks and a flowing white crest. The females are not gaudy like this, but are nurs under the trees. In Wind-



Distinctive mandarin ducks are a relatively common sight in the wild in Britain

also quite striking in their silvery-grey plumage. By asking FEATHER REPORT

around we managed to find out what they were, and since then they have become a familiar sight in some areas. There are now thought to be about 3,000 of for them. them in Britain. In fact, they are entitled to be called British birds quite as much as to be called anything else.

In the whole of the Far East outside Japan, there are now probably no more of them than are to be found in this country, and in Japan there are only about the same number. Britain is where their prospects lie.

They are essentially wood-land duck, nesting in holes in trees and for part of the year feeding on acorns and chest-

sor Great Park they have taken to building in the nest boxes that have been provided

Other recent additions to the "C" category include the Egyptian goose, a tree-nesting goose originally imported from South Africa. This is a grotesque bird, more closely related to the sheldow's these related to the shelduck than to real geese. It is a large, pinkish creature, with a face patch that looks like a black eye and an enormous white wingpatch. There are about 1,000 in Britain on lakes and gravel pits, mostly in East Anglia. It does not breed very successfully because it starts in February and March, which is too

early for this country.

birds, the flocks of Canada geese, the ruddy ducks, the little owl and the exotic pheasants — Lady Amherst's pheas-ant and the golden pheasant that great 18th-century naturalist Gilbert White, author of the Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne, would have a great many shocks if he rode on his horse through the countryside today.

DERWENT MAY

• What's about Birders - list for the first songs of male chaffinches. Twitchers — pied-billed grebe, South Norwood lake. London SE25; little hunting-South Milton Ley, Devon: ferrugenous duck, New Hythe gravel pits, Kent, Depails from Birdline 0891 700222. Calls cost 400 a minute chean rate. Shout all 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all



The "grand salon" is 36ft long, with decorative ceiling, chandelier, marble fireplace and coal-effect gas fire

Des res with ice box to die for

Katherine

Bergen on an exotic shrine to Napoleon in

smartest area

London's

f moving house is second only to divorce in terms of stress, imagine the pleasure of moving into a house which is not only fully furnished but where the owner has thrown in everything from the tea towels to the cutlery.

This does, of course, create a small problem; what to do with your own linen and pots and pans. However, the allinclusive purchase would be ideal perhaps, for a rich foreign family who have had to flee their country with only

Sutherland House in Eaton: Square, central London, is for sale at £5 million fully furnished or £4.25 million unfurnished. The American owner. whose last home in London was once owned by Ava Gard ner, is inclined to decorate her properties according to a theme. Her last home paid homage to Hollywood in honour of Miss Gardner and this one is a shrine to Napoleon. Portrait miniatures of the general abound. The bee, his emblem, is woven into furnishing fabrics. The original eagle from the standard which went with him into exile on St Helena is mounted in the study, and a copy of one of his:

favourite portraits by Ingres dominates the drawing room. In fact, the eye is so distracted by the lavishness of the decor — the walls are painted with trompe-l'oeil scenes -that it is difficult to perceive

the bare bones of the building.

From under the weight of the African walnut panelling and the Baccarat crystal chandeliers, the house really emerges as half of what was once a much larger house. The 36ft-long "grand salon", or drawing room, was formerly the ballroom belonging to the once complete house and other



Behind the impressive frontage (above) on to Eccleston Street, is a lavishly decorated entrance hall (right), which leads into a large, walnut-panelled dining room and on to the kitchen/breakfast room

rooms have been radically

redistributed. The owner has

added the front door and

the house.

cuoboard.

it Sutherland House.

The kitchen has two of

everything: dishwashers.

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

Sutherland House, Eaton Square, London SW1 portico on Eccleston Street, ● Lease: 72 years, expiring March 24, 2069. ● Ground rent: guest bedrooms have been created in the basement and a £2,000pa with reviews. ● Parking: Private parking in mews whole new floor has been behind house. • Corner shops: When exhausted, totter over added to accommodate the to the nearby House of Roux to buy pre-prepared dishes like master bedroom and two en boned quall for dinner. Jeraboam, the specialist cheese shop, suite bathrooms at the top of within instant gratification distance. Transport: On the chauffeur's day off, taxi waiting time about 30 seconds. Also a Even the name of the house taxi rank in Stoane Square. • Neighbours: The Queen is a is new. It was formerly called stone's throw away; Baroness Thatcher's headquarters are No 24a, but this is not a measly 24a type of house. After negotiations with the Grosvenearby, Duke of Westminster, owner of the Grosvenor Estates, can sometimes be spotted examining renovation work. nor Estate, the owner rescued • Pub: The Duke of Wellington, known as the Duke of Boot.

> "stuff" that we know, one day, will come in useful - carpet cut-offs, old

> paint cans, spare pillows, school trunks, and broken squash-rackets,

plus books, clothes, sports gear, camping equipment and DIY tools

These items prey heavily on the mind of buyers when sixing up a new

house to move into. Where are they

basement or boxroom. Modern

houses, in particular, pay scant

attention to storage spaces, expecting people to stack everything in the

The secret is to unlock "dead"

space: the hallways, landings, stair-

wells, alcoves, roof and wall spaces

that are not earning their keep.
The roof space is the most obvious.

Lay sheets of chipboard or hard-

board over the joists to create a firm surface. A folding loft-ladder and

electric light are optional but make

life easier. You now have a perfect

space for storing such seasonal items

Staircases can prove surprisingly

versatile. Cupboards can be fitted

underneath the stairs, while the long

drop of the stairwell can function as

a mini-library, with shallow shelves

to allow room for people to pass.

Deeper shelves near the top can hold

seldom-used items, such as rugs or

picnic hampers so that the wall

as sledges, skis and camping gear.

downstairs closet or in the garage.

Not every house comes with

used only occasionally.

going to store them all?

it from this ignominy and adopted the suggestion to call cookers, fridges. A small spiral The attention to detail withstaircase winds from the kitchen up to the drawing room so that staff can clean there in is impressive. There is little if anything for a new owner to during dinner without disdo. Even the extra leaves for turbing guests by walking through the dining room. the dining room table have their own specially adapted

My favorite little extra is the ice machine in the bar on the first floor which makes ice that

Looking beyond the fact that you might inherit a full set of fish knives if you moved in here, above all what you get for your money are size, location and security. There is a little something for everyone. For the hygenic, the house may have only five bedrooms but each has an en suite bathroom. For people who enjoy serious entertaining, the drawing room easily holds 75 people. The address snob will appreciate its location in the heart of Belgravia and one of the smartest parts of London, where near neighbours include the racehorse-owning Maktoums. The most neurotic after being introduced to this householder will feel comfortexcellent gizmo not to have a personal crisis of confidence: I ed by the security system which includes infra-red detectors, alarm key pads and panic buttons. The hypochondriac

will approve of the air and

water purification systems.

The music lover can twiddle

with the zoned sound system.

Personally I will never forget the power shower-heads which were the size of manhole covers. True luxury.

he garden lover may be unhappy. There is no private garden, al-though residents do have access to the communal gardens. The creative type, too, might feel frustrated. This is a house decorated very much to a personal taste. But the wealthy householder in a hurry could be happily en-sconced even before the change of address cards come

back from the printers. The hooligan in me insists on one last proviso: labradorification. Such is the pristine nature of this house that it needs to be distressed a little by, perhaps, two large but friendly dogs. The resulting disarray should be perfect. ● Agent: De Groot Collis, 0171-235 8090.

SELLING

STORAGE **SPACE**

becomes visually attractive as well as functional.

A dever carpenter can even turn the individual steps of a staircase into drawers — the riser fitted with a shallow drawer pull in the front — to

Verity and Ralph Blundell discovered their extra staircase space when looking for somewhere to store the overflow of books from their bedroom. "We had just decorated the landing and didn't want to wreck that area, so we put a bookcase at the top of the stairs while deciding what to do." Mrs Blundell says. "It was

use of space it was. The Blundells now have two

lation spaces" in architectspeak because they take up a lot of room

gather. This makes them perfect for extra storage. Think about lining one wall with ceiling-height, built-in cupboards. Provided you plan carefully, with shelves of varying depth (better still, fit adjustable shelving), you can store everything here from stepladders to paint cans.

Bland, DIY-store doors and cup-

board panels can be smartened up with strips of beading or quirky handles, or by adding contrasting coloured plinths and kickboards. Louvred doors are more attractive, although more expensive, while glass panes, hung on the inside with pleated curtaining, can look stylish. But if the corridor is narrow, opt for sliding doors.

Take a close look around other rooms for dead spaces. Alcoves above bedheads, wall spaces above bedroom windows, the unused gap above an existing fitted cupboard, the base of window seats. all can be fitted with shelves or cupboards. But ensure the support-

ing brackets are strong enough. You can never be too rich or too thin or have too much storage. Any interior designer will say you need twice as much as you think.

If you are really smart you could do as the Japanese do and use that ultimate bit of dead space: the gap under the floorboards. Our ergonomically minded Eastern cousins line these areas with storage boxes. Just think how disappointed the burglar will be when, instead of mocovering the family silver, he discovers your old school reports.

HELEN PICKLES



ABOUT £675,000



LONDON 32 St Luke's Street, Chelsea, SW3, Mo with a rear garden overlooking St Luke's Church. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms (one en suite), drawing/dining room and kitchen. Plus self-contained one-bedroom lower ground floor flat. About £685,000 (John D. Wood, 0171-352 1484)



ISLOUCES TERISHTHE.
Ferney Hill, Dursley, Refurbished Grade It listed Georgian house in seven acres of landscaped gerdens/paddocks. Six bedrooms, dressing room, four bathrooms, studio, drawing room, octagonal sitting room, three further reception rooms, billiard room and kitchen. Plus self-contained one-bedroom that. Stone-built former donkey house and garaging. About £550,000 (Butter Sherborn, 01666



Houghton Park House, Ampthill. 19th-century house in 17 acres of parkiand and paddocks, next to the ruins of the historic Grade I listed Houghton House, a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Six bedrooms, bathroom, shower-room, spa bathroom/sauna, drawing room, dining room, sitting room, conservatory, kitchen/breaddast room, utility and filmess room. Plus self-contained one-bedroom fat. Double garage and stabiling. About \$505.000, (Saulite, 01223 \$22055)

and stabling. About £695,000 (Savills, 01223 322955) CHERYL TAYLOR

Berkshir



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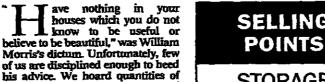
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Salasan Salasan

12-

\$1 V.

The Blundells use shallow shelves in the stairwell to create a mini-library



is crystal clear. It is important

began, inwardly, to berate my

inadequate ice box at home

which produces only the vul-

gar opaque variety. These are the treats one should expect in

a property of this price range.

store anything from DIY tools to household files.

then that we realised what a good

bookcases stretched across the stairwell of their Victorian, terraced home at Newcastle upon Tyne. "The cases also light up and warm what was previously a dark area." Mrs Blundell says. When you walk in through the front door your eye is drawn up the stairs. It gives a feeling of vitality to the house."

Hallways and landings are "circubut are seldom areas in which people

هِ كذا من رلامهل

Grandpa retires to the poolside

y this time next year a new development should be completed at Christ's Hospital school near Horsham in West Sussex. It will be for retired people: 30 fluts and houses are being built on the site of the school's old farm by English Courtyard, one of the pioneers of private retirement homes in this country.

Those who move in will

have access to the school's theatre and sports centre. as well as having a mini-bus to take them to shops and other local amenities. Laundry rooms, closed-circuit security cameras and guest suites are standard in English Courtyard schemes.

At Cedars Village in Hertfordshire, a ballroom, croquet lawn, restaurant and bar, library, shop and snooker room will be on offer within 22 acres of landscaped grounds. This 'village" development is due to be completed by Retirement Villages at Chorleywood in the spring. There will be 151 properties in all, including

The new age of luxurious.

purpose-built retirement

homes is here

apartments (from E97,500), cottages (from £140,000) and bungalows (from £100,000). Cedars Village is tailored for the active but residents must be 60 or over.

At Bluecoat Pond. Christ's Hospital development, prices go from £175,000 to £220,000 and 17 of the two and three-bedroom homes have already been reserved. As at English Courtyard's other developments, there will be a manager on site and residents are issued with small mobile alarms, Occupants can expect to pay about £40 a week management charges, the money going towards general maintenance of the buildings

and 15 houses and four flats at Goodworth Clatford, near Andover. The cost of homes in both places should start at about £180,000. Howard Packman, managing director of Sheltered Housing Services, an independent national marketing company

cover repair work.

for retirement homes, says planning restrictions gener ally stipulate that single residents, or one of a couple, have to be at least 55-60. When the property is sold on it must go to people in a similar age group. Most are leasehold. Sheltered Housing Services has 200 resales and 129 new schemes (with between six to

40 homes) on its books. Prices range from £25,000 to £275,000. Most have one or two bedrooms. SHS issues a quarterly magazine, called The National Guide to Retirement Homes, which gives details of available properties.

"These homes usually have non-slip floors in the kitchen and bathroom, easy-to-open windows, easy-to-use water taps, grips on the bath and power points at a convenient height. All will have some kind of alarm system." Mr Packman says.



The Mytchett Heath development of retirement homes by English Courtyard near Camberley, Surrey, has won an award for its landscaping

"We came to look at the

property in the middle of May,

although we weren't intending

to buy it. But Norman was so

taken with it that by the end of

the month we had completed.

We moved in three weeks

later, doing part-exchange because we didn't want all the

stresses and strains of selling

£50,000 for the ground-floor apartment which has one bed-

room, a lounge, bathroom and kitchen with a garden and stream outside. There is a

Careline 24-hour emergency

call system and a manager

and his wife on site. The

service charge is about £22 a

The couple paid more than

ourselves," Mrs Boot says.

The security of 24-hour medical facilities on site was a big attraction for Patricia Brooks when she paid £78,000 for a two-bedroom bungalow on Oaklands Park, a 16-acre estate owned and managed by Nuffield Health Care, just outside Redhill in Surrey. Mrs Brooks has a rheumatic condition but Oaklands Park has a 35-bed nursing home available for use by those on the estate and people outside. All 113 freehold properties on the site

- bungalows, cottages and flats - have a Lifeline emergency call system linked to the medical centre. Other specialist developers in retirement housing include Pegasus, Beechcroft and Mc-Carthy & Stone. The latter has one and two-bedroom flats for sale at 55 developments. Apart

from the smallest schemes, all have resident house managers. Prices are from £40,000 to £100,000 at these established developments, but a new one at Sherborne in Dorset has 16 cottage-style stone houses with three bedrooms from £145,000. Service charges

These homes have non-slip floors, easy-to-open windows, easy-to-use taps and power points at a convenient height'

in Worcester.

here, including ground rent.

will be Ell a week.

An arched cloister incorporated into the buildings sur-rounds a formal garden on three sides and there are electronically controlled entrance gates and a closedcircuit television system. The company has found that security is a big plus when people are looking for purpose-built retirement homes.

nother attraction has been a part-exchange scheme. "The scheme helped to oil the wheels in a slow-moving housing market, but even with the market picking up it is still very popular," Mr Davies

One couple who took advantage of this scheme was Northat's very important to us."

Mrs Boot says.

The couples flat is one of 54 in the scheme and 31 are occupied. One and two-bed-room flats are still for sale man and Jean Boot, who from £48,450 to £69,450. moved from a bungalow in Birmingham to an apartment

week, which includes the

The apartment is warm,

comfortable and secure, and

ground rent.

Howard Packman says the average-sized private retirement development has 35-40 homes but he believes schemes are getting bigger. Their great advantage is the peace of mind they bring. They're secure, the maintenance of the building and communal grounds is taken care of, there are no noisy parties and no noisy youngsters. Most people wish they had moved in five years before they did."

CHRISTIAN DYMOND ● English Courtyard, 0171-937 4511: McCarthy & Stone, 01202 292480; Shelbered Housing Services, 0181-997 9313; Cedars Village sales office, 01923 491170; Beechcroft, 01491 834775; Pegasus 01242 576610; Nuffield Care Centre, 01737 772525.

PROPERTY **NEWS**

THE number of houses put up for sale fell by 40 per cent be-tween October and December 1996, the lowest for eight years, says the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

FIVE British Rail crossing cottages in Not-tinghamshire. Derbyshire and Lincolnshire will be auctioned on February 6. Guide prices start at about £10,000. More information from Savills on 0115-955 225S.

■ MORE than 25 per cent of sales in December were to first-time buyers, says the National Association of Estate Agents, and 25 per cent of all buyers did not require mortgages.

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Norman and Jean Boot did a part-exchange scheme

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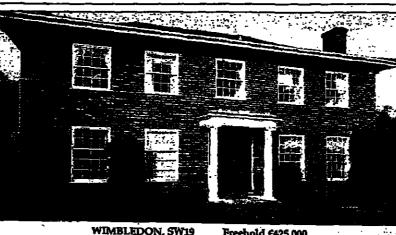
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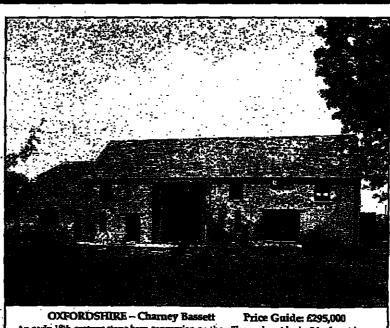


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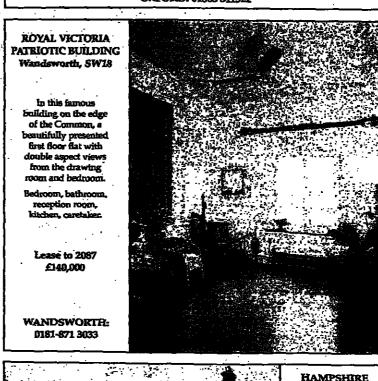
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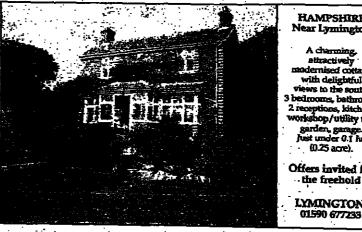


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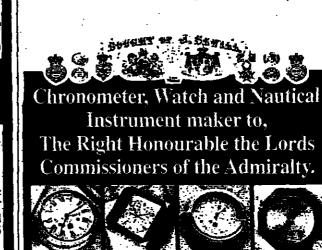
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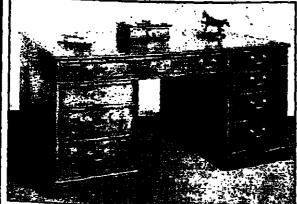
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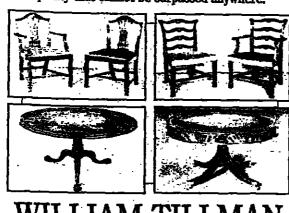
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hours you want. For example, Trevor Horwood, the author says "Today I earn over £20,000 a year as a freelance copy-editor and proofreader, and I love every minute of it. My only problem now is deciding which assignments to accept since I am regularly offered more work than I can

cope with." Every year thousands of new books or revised editions are published. Likewise, there are currently thousands of weekly, monthly, bimonthly and speciality journals.

Every one of these books, periodicals and journals must be proofreed at one stage or another. Add the millions of printed matter produced by local printers every week and you begin to appreciate the vast size of the proofreading

industry needed to support them.
Trevor Horwood has been a freelance writer and copy editor for many years. He works for number of major publishing firms.

Recently some of his clients told him of the difficulty they experienced finding proofreaders. As we all know, the quantity of books published is growing all the time - so there is an ever increasing demand for proofreaders and copy editors. Trevor knows from us that freelancers can play an increasingly important role. Publishers agree that this is the most cost-effective and effi-cient way of getting services they need at greatly reduced overhead costs. The proofreader is still very well paid, so

everyone gains!
After talking to his friends in the business he decided, based on his own knowledge, to produce a guide for people who would enjoy this work. Trevor says, This service is readily operated from home so it does not involve costly overhead. Ready money is easily produced to help with household bills and pay for extra holi-days." You can easily find yourself earning a good hourly rate just for reading and correcting a small piece of copy.



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For a cricket lover:

The Village Cricket Tour will give hours of pleasure. A novel which describes the adventures and mishaps of a team of amateur cricketers who spend two weeks of their summer holidays on a cricket tour of the West Country and which has been compared to Jerome K Jerome's classic "Three Men in a Boat". "I enjoyed it immensely," wrote Peter Tinniswood in Punch. "He has succeeded in writing a book that will entertain, a book that will amuse and warm the cockles of tired hearts." "Coleman is a very funny writer," said This England. "It would be a pity if cricketers were the only people to read this book." "Seminal reading includes de Selincourt and Blunden and should now embrace Vernon Coleman's latest offering, a whimsical piece about the peregrinations of a village cricket team on its summer tour," said The Cricketer magazine. "All the characters are here, woven together by a raft of anecdotes and reminiscences and a travelogue of some of the most picturesque spots in the south west." A marvellous present for all cricket lovers.

Anyone who likes golf will love The Man Who Inherited a Golf Course. This superb novel tells the story of Trevor Dukinfield who wakes up one morning to find that he is the owner of his very own golf club - fairways, bunkers, chibhouse and all. There's one snag: to keep the club he must win a golf match. And he's never played a round of golf in his life. "The scenario is tailor made for Vernon Coleman's light and amusing anecdotes about country life and pursuits" said the Sunday Independent. "Very readable!" said Golf World. "Hugely enjoyable in the best tradition of British comic writing" said the Evening Chronicle. "The mix of anecdotes and moments of sheer farce make for an absorbing read" said the Evening Telegraph. A terrific present for anyone who enjoys golf. Far more fun than another pair of socks or a bottle of aftershave.

For a cat lover:

Feline fans will love Alice's Diary which tells of a year in the life of a mixed tabby cat. Alice shows us, with great humour and insight, what it is really like to be a cat. Our files are bursting with letters from readers who loved this book. "What a wonderful book, so beautifully written, it was a great pleasure to read" wrote Mrs Y of Essex. "Please send copies of Alice's Diary to the eleven friends on the accompanying list. It is a wonderful book which will give them all great pleasure," wrote Mr R of Lancashire. Alice's Diary is delightfully illustrated throughout. But we warn you when you see it you may not want to give it away! An absolute must for all cat and animal lovers. Guaranteed to give more joy and laughter than almost any other present you can choose.

Or for anyone who loves a good read:

Isn't it wonderful when you discover a series of books by an author you haven't come across before? Well, Vernon Coleman's Bilbury books are like that. They have received fantastic reviews and have already been enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of readers. Contented, loving pets in front of a crackling log fire. Hot, crusty bread fresh from the oven. Homemade soup bubbling on the stove. Vegetables dewy fresh from the garden. A pint at the local pub. Cricket on the village green with tea and cakes at four o'clock. Rambling roses clambering over picture postcard cottages. That's Bilbury. Anyone who loves an old-fashioned, good read (with characters, plots and good writing!) will love Bilbury Pie.

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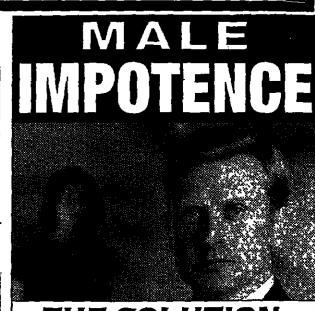


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My barber, my friend

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s I discovered only recently to my great sorrow. Giorgio is dead. He died last year on St George's Day, fittingly for an Italian who loved England with a full heart. He was 80.

Giorgio was not a hair-dresser. He hated the word too much for me to describe him as one, and I understood his reasons. He was - as he said himself, pronouncing the word with traces of both his native Parma and his adoptive London — a barber.

Giorgio Polledri was my barber, the best cutter of my hair I have ever had. He worked at Cuts, a scruffy, friendly, bustling place in Frith Street, Soho. His colleagues were definitely not barbers, but hairdressers, stylists, shapers, crimpers and dyers. Well into his seventies when he came out of retirement to join the "salon", Giorgio regarded these youthful snippers with an impressive tolerance. They, too, put up with the reek of his roll-ups. which he lit after each haircut.

His death is a personal loss. A good barber can often become a sensitive man's friend, and Giorgio had become mine. The usual cut, sir?" he would ask - always "sir" — as he encircled me with a fresh white barber's bib. The usual, Signor Giorgio," I would say — always "signor" — as I sank into the blissful world of barber sounds.

Out came the clipper. Whirr, like the buzz of bumblebees. Then came the scissors. Clip-clip-clip. And all the while, as the hair fell, Giorgio and I talked of many things.

Men say things to their barbers which they could not say to others of comparable professional contact. One talks a bit to taxi drivers, plumbers and barmaids, not to mention butchers, but today's highspeed life makes this contact too fleeting for a meaningful exchange of views. With barbers, things are different. There is time to talk, even of personal things. I remember an early encounter, in December 1993. I had just arrived in London and was contemplatIn a hectic world, the

hairdressers is one of the

few places for

a good chat

ing the step that most frightens those people who are bad with money. "I am thinking of buying a flat, Signor Giorgio. Where would you suggest?" He said nothing for a minute. Then this: "You're with The Times, you said? Wapping, isn't it? Hmm. Buy in Islington. Good properties, not bad prices, and you can get to work quickly." Two weeks later, I bought in Islington.

I found Giorgio by chance and stayed with him for three years, plonking myself in his chair every two months or so. Before him, I had been promiscuous, ducking into any barbers that looked as if it offered haircuts by older men rather than younger women. I was seldom happy with my hair, but developed a cavalier approach to the whole business as a way of living with a sloppy coiffure. Well, that wasn't too awful," I would say to myself after yet another daft haircut. "It will grow back."

My best haircuts before Giorgio date back to my first term as an undergraduate. I had wandered into Walter's in in Oxford, on the recommendation of a friend. "What are you reading, sir?" the old barber asked me, as he sawed at my hair with oldish scissors. "Law," I replied, tentatively. "Ah, that's good," he said. "That's what we need, sir ... a bit of law and order!" He gave me splendid haircuts before he retired, his skills still

as sharp as his homilies. Giorgio, however, was different. As with all the finest barbers, there was no bombast in him. Instead, he was a quiet, friendly shrink. He could guess when I was gloomy. He could divine when my awful love life was even

poorer than usual. Yet in keeping with the finest tradi-tions of his ilk, he did not dispense advice. He never told me to find another girlfriend, or to look for another job. His task was simply to cut hair, and to soothe the man in the chair. "Ah, it will pass, I'm sure" was his stock response to every ailment And Giorgio was right: it always did.

Typically, our relationship was an uneven one. Men talk freely to their barbers (often losing their sense of proportion in the process), but barbers seldom talk as freely to their customers. What do I know about Giorgio today? Very little, I must confess. He was happily married, proud of his children and grandchil-dren, loved pasta with "a nice, rich tomato sauce", and even ate Indian food occasionally.

Only once did he speak to me, unprompted, of his own life. One day, when the shop quiet, he told me that he had been interned in the Second World War as an enemy alien. "I suppose they had to do it. They were fighting against Italy after all. and I was Italian."

e was interned on an island whose name I now forget. The guards were jealous of our food. We grew tomatoes and garlic and herbs, and our kitchens smelled beautiful. We gave the guards stuff to eat in exchange for cigarettes."

In a quiet, compelling way. Giorgio became a presence in my life. When The Times sent me to Spain in April last year. as correspondent, one of the last things I did was go to Giorgio for a haircut. "Make it a good one, Signor Giorgio," I said. This one's got to last me until I see you next."

When I returned to London in December, I made straight for Cuts, only to find that Giorgio was not there. "He died last April," said a girl. "Did you know him? He was a sweet old man, and a better barber than any of us."

TUNKU



A VET WRITES

What is hip dysplasia? We are looking for a retriever puppy and keep hearing about X-rays, control schemes and hip scores. What is it all about?

Hip dysplasia is a badly formed hip joint. The socket in the pelvis is shallow or misshapen and the head of the femur (the ball) doesn't fit snugly into it. An extreme misfit means the hip is permanently dislocated. A minor malformation causes arthritis later in life. Inheritance is a major factor.

The British Veterinary Association/Kennel Club hip dysplasia control scheme aims to identify dogs with the best hips. Their puppies will probably have good hips too. It is not a 100 per cent guarantee but breeders who have used the scheme over the past 20 years have improved their dogs' hips - and their dogs'

enjoyment of life. X-rays of a dogs hips are sent to expert scrutineers to be graded. The lower the score, the better the hip. It is best to see several litters before you choose a pup — and look for low scoring parents. If you are undecided, ask a vet for advice. They cannot make up your mind but can point you in the right direction.

i have an elderly aunt who is animal and ver mad. She has every book about vets I can find - and can recite large sections of the Herriott books. It is her birthday soon. Is there anything she may have missed?

The Vet Aid Book of Veterinary Anecdotes might fit the bill. Vet Aid was established in 1989 to improve the health and productivity of livestock in developing

Countries.

James Wright writes about his father, Alf Wright, alias James Herriott. There are tales of veterinary disasters, delightful and difficult clients and history to show how we have progressed in 50 years. It costs £9.50 from bookshops, or by post (add £2.50 p&p) from S. Wellfare, Seascape, 34 Firle Road, North Lancing, West Sussex BNI5 ONZ. All profits to Vet Aid (charity no SC 004913).

JAMES ALLCOCK

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Outstanding in their field



Ted and Pamela Roe take their llamas for regular walks

Ted Roe's Christmas gift from his wife Pamela two years ago was a male llama. "It was a complete surprise," he says, and he was delighted.

"The real shock came when I told him he could buy me a female llama for my birthday," Mrs Roe says, but that it would cost three times more than the male."

Until the new llama arrived, the couple borrowed two sheep from a farmer next door so their one-yearold male had some company.

The two animals, Rodrigo and

Rosa, live in a one-acre field beside the Roes' bungalow in Caenaryon. They have produced one offspring. Rosanna, and another is expected in March. The gestation period is more than 11 months.

Mrs Roe was inspired to keep llamas after reading Ruth Ruck's book Along Came a Llama, which charts the author's experience of keeping one on a hill farm in Snowdonia. "When I read it I thought I'm going to live in north Wales, have a liama and collect my pension with it," she says.

They're lovely creatures to have around; placid, haughty but friendly, inquisitive, clean and interestLlamas are cheap to keep and make

excellent pets. They also keep foxes at bay

ing to watch. Every morning we stand by the fence and they come over and stick their faces into ours." The Roes regularly take the llamas

for walks around the local lanes. The llamas are cheap to keep. They eat grass, get £30 worth of hay a year and a pony mix, which costs about £4 a month. Their dung provides manure.

The llamas have a barn but the cold does not bother them, because they come from high altitude in the Andes. Rodrigo apparently likes nothing better than sleeping out

under the stars on a frosty night. The British Camelids Owners and Breeders Association says there has been a steady increase in the number of people keeping llamas today about 500 are kept as pets. whereas ten years ago there were only about 100. The word "camelids" covers liamas, vicunas, alpacas and guanacos.

"It is the llamas' enormous curiosity and wonderful big eyes which attracts me so much," says the

association's secretary, Candy Midworth, who started off with a male and two pregnant females eight years ago with the idea of breeding and selling but has found every excuse not to part with any of them. She now has 36 and, because llamas live for 20 to 25 years, that figure could rise considerably.

They are very interactive creatures. Whenever there is a birth they all gather around and watch. Last year a mother had a weak baby which didn't know how to take milk from her. I tried to point the youngster in the right direction but the other llamas nudged the baby towards the mother and got him to

drink," Mrs Midworth says. Paul Rose, a liama breeder, fell in love with the animals while backpacking in Peru 15 years ago. He now has a herd of 60 at his Llama Farm near Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire, ranging in age from four months to 14 years. He advises not to buy llamas too young. "If they are too young, they will try

to establish a pecking order by spitting at you."

Mr Rose's llamas cost about £500 to £600 for a male and £1,500 upwards for a female, the difference in price accounted for by the demand for females for breeding purposes. He emphasises the need for space — two or three to an acre and says they do not need dipping against disease and need no shearing because after two or three years the coat stops growing. (That is unless people deliberately shear them for their fibre.)

Mr Rose says: "They are best kept with other llamas or stock, such as ponies, sheep - they guard lambs against foxes with great success --cattle or goats. They are eventempered and good with people. (have even taken one to the pub."

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

 British Camelids Owners and Breeders Association, Banks Way House, Effingham Common. Leatherhead, Surrey KT24 5/B. ● Cotswold LLama Farm, 01451

• Along Came a Liama by Ruth Ruck, from the camelids association (above) £7.95, including p&p.



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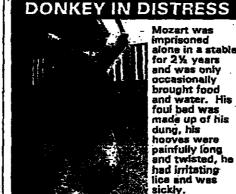




MISCELLANEOUS







and was only occasionally brought food and water. His foul bed was dung, his hooves were painfully long and twisted, he had irritating lice and was sickly. When we

rescued him, he was petrified of us. He quivered at the back of his new stable, not daring to come out to see donkeys or paopia.

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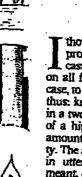
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Floored by a dreaded hamster

thought I had cracked the per problem. I had established a cast-iron case for a total veto on all forms of furry animal. My case, to my two young charges, ran thus: keeping any small mammal in a two-storey flat perched on top of a high Victorian house would amount to nothing less than cruelty. The animal would spend its life in utter misery. (What I really meant, of course, was that in spite of the initial enthusiasm of ownership from both Antonia and Joanna, yours truly would doubtless be the one to find himself clearing cat litter trays, or descending to the park on frozen mornings and walking the delightful puppy for its morning business.)

And then the decider - the holiday problem. Who, pray, is going to look after this sweet little being while you two are summer-

ing with Mummy? What I mean here, of course, is that not only are these long vistas of summer vacation a chance for

them to spend a really meaningful period with their mother, but that they also present an opportunity for a harassed single-parent father to think about something other than shopping at Sainsbury's, homework, clean knickers, laddered tights, outbreaks of zits and tragic fallings-out with their little schoolmates. In short, they give him a chance to get out there on the beaches of Greece. Turkey or what-have-you, and try to imagine himself as a red-blooded male in whom a member of the opposite sex might be interested.

I must have betrayed something of this last, unworthy desire to Antonia. Also, in what I thought

PERSONAL LIFE

was a successful veto on bringing any furry animal into the flat, I had forgotten that convenient forgotten that convenient quadruped, the hamster.

Now the hamster, Antonia as-

sures me with some force, obviztes

all my feeble objections. It does not become mopey like a dog, or plain cantankerous like a cat, if its owners do not give it non-stop TLC. During the summer vacation it — and the small cage which constitutes its entire universe will be passed around week by week among their friends on strict schedule. "It's all sorted," Joanna tells me. "First Justine, then Rachel, then Emily, then Miriam, then ... she says, pausing to book page on which this netarious plan has been hatched. "Hamsters really

.. while you're doing whatever it is you want to do on holiday, father," glares Antonia. When your offspring address you as "father" it is a sure sign that moral turpitude is suspected. I capitulate. A hamster it shall be.

n the first night of their stewardship of the beast I arrive home to find that hamster has escaped through a my gap in the skirting board and into the labyrinthine bowels where joists and dust have enjoyed undisturbed repose these past 140 years. Scratchings have been heard under the stairs during the after-noon, but the unrepentant animal has ignored all pleas to show itself. consult the well-thumbed exercise-

up the carpet tiles on the mezza nine landing and prise up floorboards, tearing fingernails in the process. Anxious callings, tearful supplications and much probing with flashlight beams do not, alas,

Midnight, It has has now been gone eight hours. Joanna, having studied the metabolism of the pygmy shrew at school that day and learnt that small furry beasts tend to die after four hours without sustenance, now dissolves into tears. I try to persuade her that the hamster is an altogether tougher

show itself.

customer, and suggest bed. But for the next hour she insists on feeding bits of cheese and bacon rind through cracks in the skirtings in the hope that the wanderer will find them. Somewhere after lam we sorrowfully disband and go to bed.

Next morning, still no harnster. I go upstairs to find Antonia and Joanna sobbing in each other's arms in a scene of unconsolable grief. I beat a retreat down to the kitchen, muttering about breakfast. Minutes later - whoops of

joy. I tear upstairs. Sitting in the middle of their bedroom floor, looking like the persuade the dratted animal to coalman of yore after a particularly dusty delivery, is the beast. How he got there, heaven knows. He looks unrepentant and distinctly well-fed, cheek pouches bulging with lord knows what junk he has picked up in his travels under the

floorboards. Before going to work it takes me two hours to restore the damage ! have inflicted on the landing, and I smash my thumb with the ham-

mer en route. I advise any hamster to give me

a wide berth for a long, long time. PETER DAVIES

What time do you call this?

Jill Parkin on the the problem of

setting a curfew for teenagers

lot of teenagers will stagger downstairs morning to breakfast frosties Not a cereal, but their annoyed parents. They are the Friday night curfew-breakers who were supposed to be home for the bedtime cocoa, but came in

with the morning milk. Like money, sex and music. timekeeping is a big teenage issue. Crudely put, on one side of the breakfast table there is a generation behind the newspaper reading about a world full of drug pushers, sex attackers and drunken teenage drivers. On the other side there are teenagers wondering why they have dinosaurs for parents and what their friends

will say about it. Angela King teaches at Boston Spa comprehensive school in West Yorkshire and regularly discusses parental relationships with her pupils. "Overstrict parents can make their children look foolish. Their peers say, 'Don't they trust you? And after all, it's a terrible thing to send out a

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HERETER STATE

that the street was the

go out into it." She has two teenage daughters whose social life is mainly friends' houses and the local nubs and restaurants of Wetherby, with occasional forays into Leeds or Harrogate. But she had to take a deep breath when 18-year-old Andrea wanted to go to Liverpool

for an 18th birthday party. The options were that I could pick her up from the coach at 5am or I could lend her my car. I let her drive. Then I went to bed. She came back at 5.30. It was a case of, This scares me, but I'm going to let you do it because we have built up a trust'."

These days trust starts building up early, with sleepover parties from the age of ten. From about II. Mrs King's daughters sometimes went to the cinema in Harrogate on the bus and came home in a taxi.

Now, as teenagers, the norms for coming home are 11-11.30pm for a weekday, and anything between 11.30pm and lam at the weekends, unless it is something special. The bottom line, says Mrs King, is that if they are stuck, she will turn out, no matter what the hour.

You have to ask yourself why you're making this rule or that," she says. "Is it just to exercise my authority? Is it because it was done to me? Confrontation leads to deceit, and that's the danger.

"And I do want my daughters to grow up assertive, to ask for and get what they want. There's no better way of practising it than in the family.

When they're out, I'm a bit uneasy. You don't quite sleep the same. I don't sit up because it suggests you're not trusting them to make sound friendships and relationships. I want them to feel they're out there with my blessing."

ian, 16, says: The curiew is usually midnight on a Friday. If a friend has to be home earlier, we'll walk her back in a group. I would lose Mum's trust if I didn't ring her when arrangements change. It's always the first thing I think of. message that the world is such Yes, I know people who lie an awful place that you can't about where they are. Some parents - perhaps they have an only child - are very strict. And that's when friends start to lie."

"We arrange lifts and we don't drink and drive," Andrea says. "I know people whose parents are stricter, so I count myself lucky. We can always rely on Mum or Dad. We know that."

But not every house is filled with such sweetness and light. Sheila Dainow, the author of

■ When negotiating a time

to be home for a teenager.

always plan well ahead.

be back at 3am. Okay?"

Otherwise they will be at the door putting

their coats on, saying: "It's Dermot's 17th birthday today. He's driving. We'll probably

Have a time in mind, which takes into

account who they are with and where they



Angela King with her daughters Andrea, 18, and Sian, 16. "You have to ask yourself why you are making rules. Confrontation can lead to deceit, and that's the danger

How To Survive Your Teenagers, says we shouldn't expect our children to like us all the time, especially when we are limiting their behaviour.

There is this idea that children should always be happy, that in parenting happiness equals success. It's nor true. Of course there's going to be a row. Of course the child is

CURFEW TIPS

going to stamp about and put on very loud music. Don't expect them to be subtle about it. That's the last thing teenagers are. They're actually

You have to make sure children realise you're not

someone who is going to go away, that you have your values for a reason.

Insist that you know

where they are going and

that they will phone you if their plans change or they get stuck. ■ Don't be so heavy-handed that they are frightened to phone when things go wrong.

If they do catch you on the hop, play what Gael Lindenfield calls the broken record. For example "Back at 1), please." But everyone is seeing the sun come up."

"Back at II. please." Ask yourself why you have chosen that "But that's psychological abuse." particular time. Back at 11, please."

■ Be prepared to compromise if they It may not be a display of give and take, but it stops you being railroaded into something convince you that it is a special evening and you are not happy with. they will be safe.

They have to rebel in order to see you're right. They must understand that part of being an adult is setting limits to behaviour. Otherwise there's chaos. You have to teach them

and then trust them." What you teach them about drugs, drink-driving and sex perverts — is part of growing-up. But some parents don't want them to know.

Gael Lindenfield, a psycho therapist and the author of Confident Children, says: The biggest mistake parents make is being over-protective and so pushing their children into secrecy. Innocence is a very dangerous thing. You have to teach them about drugs, about drinking, about personal safety. It's easier to

trust them if they're prepared.
"Always know where they are. State your ideal time. Let them state theirs. Give your reasons and listen to theirs. Find out what's workable."

There is a general impression among parents that girls are the vulnerable gender. But as any teenager will tell you. it's the boys who get into most trouble, "Boys can be beaten up for looking at someone the wrong way in the pub. Or their group will be challenged to a fight by another group," Mrs King says.

Cheryl Buggy, who is working on a schools life-skills programme, is the mother of two teenage sons. "There's no hard and fast rule," she says. Thomas, 16, says: "We know there's a limit. Usually 11.30 at Where they are and what they're doing is more important than the time they come in at the weekends. The most important thing is to encourage them not to be victims. And to avoid certain situations

— like groups of youths look-ing for a fight."

weekends - same as most of our friends. During the week we go to bed around 10,30. It's fine. It's reasonable." Confident Children, by Gael

Lindenfield (Thorsons, £5.99).

• How to Survive Your Teenagers, by Sheila Dainow (Sheldon Press. £5,99),

Ruth Gledhill shares the Pioneer movement's weekly meeting and witnesses a Toronto Blessing

Charismatic path to leafy Leatherhead



Plymouth Brethren was recently overhead saying: Shame about Gerald Coates. He could have made something of his life if he had not taken up

with those charismatics." Mr Coates is a founder and team leader of a network of "new" churches that now numbers 150 worldwide, with 100 in Britain. I found him in the sports hall at the Leatherhead leisure centre in Surrey, where nearly 1,000 worshippers were swinging and swaying to the sound of Christian rock led by Wayne Drain from Arkansas, USA.

Between numbers, Drain read from scripture, interpreted the reading and prophesied, accompanied by meditative background music from the electronic keyboard. At one point, children were invited to the stage to talk about the meaning of Christianity in their lives. All those present involved in education were invited to the front to be prayed over. They promptly fell to the floor, a manifestation said to be of the Holy Spirit and now an accepted feature of the charismatic movement, known as the



Children pray at the meeting

Toronto Blessing" because Toronto airport was where it began three years ago. The children prayed over the fallen adults, and the rest of the congregation prayed together. There was more worship and prayer, and the meeting concluded with a stomping" session to Drain's edectic rock. This meeting of Surrey's "Pioneer People" was the regular gathering of

the various local Pioneer churches

that worship each Sunday, one

getting together in the ABC cinema

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TEAM LEADER: Gerald Coates ARCHITECTURE: Sports hall. *

SERMON: American-style, in which the preacher gave his all. *** MUSIC: Slick Christian rock, loud and stuck in the 1970s. ★★

LITURGY: At the whim of the Holy Spirit, who strikes at random. ** SPIRITUAL HIGH: Fiery.*** AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Follow-up teaching and pastoral work. ***

and others in garages, front rooms and school halls. The movement began in the 1970s, with Mr Coates as one of the first leaders. Today it is one of the fastest-growing sections of the Christian church worldwide.

Mr Coates started life as an Anglican and became a Plymouth Brethren in his teens. One day. several years later, he began to "sing in a strange language". After seeking advice he realised he had been "speaking in tongues", one of the charismatic gifts outlined by St Paul in the New Testament. This came to the attention of the leadership of the Plymouth Brethren, and he and his wife were asked to leave. So they set up Pioneer, with a handful of others. in their living room.

"Our movement is known for understanding relationships," said Drain, after reading a gospel text. Healthy relationships depended on knowing God, loving people and be-

friending "sinners".

But he warned: "I have seen young evangelists so fired up for the lost that they go out unprepared. The darkness overcomes them and darkens their light. They commit adultery, fall into sexual sin, fall into drugs." Listening intently were a remarkable number of children and teenagers. For these young people, at least, a "high" attributed to the Holy Spirit has to be better than one induced by drugs or alcohol. Maybe that is one reason for this movement's phenomenal success.

 Pioneer People meet at the ABC Cinema, Esher, on Sundays at 10.15am. For information contact Fox House, 44 High Street, Cobham, Surrey KT11 3EB (0)932 865036).



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Revelling in the masks and the mystery



arrived in Venice the day before Shrove Tuesday, the climax of the carnival. At the landing stage for the vaporetto in Piazzale Roma a troupe of clownish gnaghe (transvestites) in high wigs and hooped stockings mingled with bourgeois women in coats and men in Barbour jackets. The boat zigzagged through the traffic on the Grand Canal - watertaxis, refuse boats, gondolas with Japanese passengers. It was cold and late in the afternoon; we could see the bright chandeliers of some of the palazzos, and the churches

were lighting their candles. Disembarking at San Silvestro, we walked through the bustling alleys, across the Campo Sant'Aponal, towards our apartment, just off the Campo San Polo, noticing several people wearing the traditional carnival disguise of white mask, black silk hood, lacy cape and three-cornered hat or dressed as characters from the Commedia dell'Arte or as plague doctors with long. beaky noses and canes, all passing through the crowds as if they were quite convention-

ally dressed. The ground was strewn with confetti. A reveller with a black-painted face loomed towards us pointing a plastic, toy rifle. The Campo San Polo, a wide spacious square, was once used for bull-baiting, religious ceremonies and other public gatherings, particularly during the carnival. I was hoping it would be the venue for a masked ball. Instead, there were dull rock concerts to endure on both Monday and Tuesday nights. Fortunately, the noise ended quite early.

Our apartment, up a blind alley called the Campiello delle Erbe, beside the narrow Sant'Antonio canal, was extraordinarily quiet at night. more like the countryside than the heart of a populous city, which was just as well because my wife and I had our sixweek-old son with us.

With a few expensive exceptions, the restaurants of Venice are disappointing, so it was good to have our own kitchen and to shop for our meals at the markets around the Rialto. We inspected ink-splattered cuttlefish, spider crabs and live eels. Then there were haby artichokes and flowering courgentes, and we also found a stall selling, among other kinds, chocolate pasta. In the bakeries were carnival biscuits and meringues of every

The Baroque and the bizarre rub shoulders happily during carnival time in Venice

colour. On the Ruga Rialto a delicatessen called Aliani Gastronomica sells Venetian specialities such as marinated sardines and a creamy, salt-

On Tuesday afternoon we

strolled along the Dorsoduro to marvel at Longhena's Baroque masterpiece, the Basilica of Santa Maria delle Salute, an octagonal creation of light Istrian stone, crowned with two domes, the larger one buttressed with huge spirals. Over the exterior swarm 125 statues. The Salute, which commemorates the passing of the plague in 1630, took so long to build that Longhena, in his early thirties when he submitted the design, died at 83 a year after its completion. As we turned the corner at

the Dogana, the empty Custom house was at the tip of the Dorsoduro. On the Zattere the broad quay where timber was once unloaded - a spectral figure in grey rags and a long dishevelled wig sham-bled past us, his gaunt face powdered with ash. It might have been a costume for the carmival, except that he was picking up cigarette ends from the pavement and muttering in the language of the downand-out. I thought of Baron Corvo, the eccentric author of Hadrian the Seventh, who spent the last years of his unhappy life stranded in Venice, sleeping in a boat belonging to the Bucintoro Rowing Club, whose premises are on the Zattere, scratching a few

lire together procuring local

VENICE FACT FILE

■ International Chapters, 102 St John's Wood Terrace,

offering apartments in Venice from £680 a week

London NW8 6PL (017)-722 9560) is a self-catering specialist

Skybus Holidays, 24a Earls Court Road, London SW5 0GA

(0171-373 6055) can arrange return flights Gatwick/Venice from

■ Crystal Italy (0181-390 5554) offers two-night breaks at the

three-star Hotel Giorgione from £309 per person or one week from £494. Prices include B&B. flights and transfers.

■ A three-day vaporetto pass costs £12 and can be purchased

■ 1 pe 1991 venue Camiron tuns unit repress y 12 rot details, contact the Italian State Townst Office (0171-408 1254).

Reading the Travel Bookshop (0171-229 5260) recommends: Venice by Jan Morris (Faber, 19.99, ISBN 0 571 16897 3); The

Passion by leanette Wimerson (Penguin, £5.99, ISBN 0 140 10831 9; Venice for Pleasure by J.G. Links (Pallss, £9.95, ISBN 1

■ The 1997 Venice Carnival rous until February II. For



boys for visiting homosexuals, practically starving, all the while dressed as the priest he had so longed to become

At the corner of Rio Trovaso and Rio Ognissanti we saw three wooden chalets around a yard where gondolas are built and repaired. Then we walked to the church of San Nicolo dei Mendicoli, near the maritime station, a strange place where the Virgin wears a red velvet

At the last moment, discouraged by the difficulty of manoeuvring a baby through the crush on the Rialto, we decided to forego the festivities in St Mark's Square. The next morning the square was flooded. Plank bridges extended from the two columns on the waterfront (the Winged Lion of St Mark and St Theodore with his slain alligator) across the Piazzetta to the entrance of the great Basilica and beyond to the expensive

emporia of the arcades. We came across the ancient Jewish quarter of Venice, the original ghetto (geto means foundry and until 1390 one operated on the site). In 1516

the old foundry area and ever night the iron gates of the ghetto were locked. Although Venetian Jewish life was restricted (only certain trades could be followed and distinctive yellow headgear had to be worn). Judaism was tolerated the population was swelled by refugees from less benign governments.

Of the original nine synagogues in the enclave, only five remain: the Scola Tedesca (for those of German origin), the Scola al Canton (Provençal), the Scola Levantina, the Scola Italiana and the Scola Spagnola. The Baroque interior of the latter was remarkable. It was designed by Longhena and, although not allowed to practise architecture, the Spanish Jews could afford to commission the very best. There is a Jewish old folk's home in the Campo and a kosher grocery.

We took the vaporetto to San Lazzaro, an island close to the Lido, which since 1717 has been an Armenian monastery. founded by Mekhitar (the Consoler). The island is a tidy. well-kept place with terraced gardens and cypress trees.

here are 22 Mekhitarian fathers and one, Father Vertanes, explained that the monks pass their time in prayer and intellectual pursuits, all the menial work being done by lay brethren. Recently there was an Irish cook who was no great hit in the refectory.

We saw the fine library and

a curious miscellany of objects: an Egyptian mummy, an Indian throne, 14 ivory balls each one inside another like Russian dolls, a statue of Napoleon's son by Canova and some pieces of Armenian porcelain. It seemed more like a country house than a monastery.

The order has operated its own press since 1789, raising funds by printing booklets and labels. Lord Byron used to row to the island for Armenian lessons. He got on well with the fathers and helped to publish an Armenian-English dictionary.

Byron was always looking for ways to stave off boredom. One day in 1818 he swam from the Lido, across the lagoon and the entire length of the Grand Canal. It took him four hours and 20 minutes.

JOE ROBERTS The author was a guest of



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Portugal: A ramble up hill and down dale in the deserted medieval hinterlands of the Alentejo.

Walking back to happiness



Alentejo, local people think you are mad to go walking for pleasure -and they have a point. The plain bakes even under the semi-retired sun of late October, the sheltering trees are infrequent, and there are other perfectly adequate means of making your way to the Spanthey are not used to the sight of pink British pedestrians filing between the hand-tilled fields towards the citadel villages that grow from the ridges.

But if you are one of the walkers you, too, have a point, because there is no better way to make the acquaintance of this medieval hinterland. The Roman infantry came this way and to ape their progress at the end of the next millennium is an enlightened lunacy.

In the British countryside, compulsive walkers delight in routes such as drove roads and ridgeways, where the original thrust and purpose are still evident.

In the Alenteio, this sense is palpable not only on the high ground but also in the unmetalled network of farm tracks and inter-village bridleways. With its compact ranges of hills and sudden shifts of character, this is the kind of small topography you might have found in rural Britain before the railways,

canals and toll roads. Yet the emptiness is overwhelming, as it is in much of inland Portugal. Most of our compatriots have gone to the golf coasts of the Algarve or the bright lights of Lisbon, and a few to the Minho or the Costa Verde. The Alenteio meaning the land beyond the River Tejo — is far enough and Seville to the east to have kept it secluded from all but



Castelo de Vide in the Alentejo is a fascinating mid-point stop on the 50-mile ramble. Walkers are guided along farm tracks and bridleways, from the monastery of Flor da Rosa to the citadel of Marvao

wilder Tras-os-Montes and Serra da Estrela, is being discovered by the British walker. Yet the prospect of path erosion by the modern Vibram sole is as distant from here as is the Pennine Way.

The Alentejo was a region of expulsion and counter-expulsion, with the Moors in residence after the Visigoths, and the Christians in the 12th century. After that, the Spanual invaders, eager to annexe the land in the manner of Galicia and Catalonia. More about 30 miles to the south at Elvas, where he found the old fortresses still serviceable. And now we are here, 16 Ingleses with bright little daypacks and redundant

aterproofs. Historically, our nations have been on relatively cordial terms. At the Castelo de Vide, mid-point of my 50-mile ramble from the monastery of Flor da Rosa to the citadel of pied by the Portuguese and English remains in excellent fettle. Immediately within, recently Wellington was here, and just as redundant as the

waterproofs, are the walls of back to 1326.

Behind the folds of this double curtain stands a tiny and perfect medieval town. In one of the streets the houses have been created from the very wall, like man-made caves in a sheer cliff. In another, at the top of the old Jewish quarter, you come as such in 1970. If this were Tuscany, the place would be crawling.

Anglo-Portuguese relations

are equally well preserved. As recently as the Falklands conflict we were invoking the 1386 Treaty of Windsor, which pledged support for each oth-

er's military actions. During my week here the only thing that placed pressure on the entente was my attempt to speak Portuguese. My mother was born in Brazil and I grew up trying to decode her exchanges with her sister. It seems I acquired nothing but family patois which is nonsense to everyone else. I shall be complaining.

The trip I joined was one of the first organised by a British operator and while solitude can be one of the most blissful aspects of serious walking. there is a lot to be said for going with someone who knows the mileages by heart and can work out a detour that takes in the prehistoric dolmens.

Walking in this way is not for misanthropists, although this does not mean that misanthropists never take part. That is both the danger and the frisson of joining a randomly convened team of standing friends from the strangers. I was lucky. I got a same town. They knew exactly strangers. I was lucky. I got a bunch that included a retired diplomars wife, an eminent economist, assorted doctors and an 80-year-old metallurgist from Denver, Colorado. This last member was part of a sub-team of veterans, which consisted of three married

couples, all of them long-

■ The Alternative Travel Group, 69-71 Banbury Road.

Oxford OX2 6PE (01865 513333). The Alto Alentejo trip

costs £995 per person and includes airport transfers;

manager to prepare picnic lunches, organise hotels and restaurants: accommodation, including taxes and

service charges; meals, drinks, and entrance charges

Reading. The Portuguese, by Marion Kaplan (Penguin, £8.99, ISBN 0 140 11352 5; Portugal Rough

Traveller's Guide, by Ian Robertson (John Murray,

Guides (£9.99, ISBN 1858 28180 6); Portugal, A

£11.99, ISBN 0719552079).

flights with BA are extra and cost from £180.

for any visits that form part of the tour itinerary. Return

tour support vehicle to transport luggage and carry anyone not interested in walking all or part of the day; a tour leader who accompanies the walkers and a tour

what they were doing basically ensuring against dud company - and had done it umpteen times before.

The result of such a mixture is more than acceptable. You are strolling towards the Serra, one moment listening to a lucid critique of EU convergence criteria, the next to firsthand tales of Voodoo in Haiti. This may not be living among the local population, but then fascinating holiday.

It is five-star tramping, with your luggage being taken by road to the next pousada, and a spread of fresh local produce appearing round the corner by magic just when your thoughts are turning to lunch. The walking is very far from the masochistic variety, but it is not wimpish either: usually between six and 12 miles per day, with a lunchtime opt-out

for the tired. I did hear grim tales of a misanthropist, a professional one by the sound of it, who got drunk every evening before dinner and loudly abused his fellow-travellers. I thought this story very funny but it is hardly everyone's glass of vinho, and I doubt I would be so amused if it had happened to me.

ALAN FRANKS ■ The author was a guest of

To coincide with the 75th Anniversary of the Discovery of Tutankhamun's Tomb and a new exhibition of the treasures found

A Celebration Performance at the Temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Thebes

Tuiseppe Verdi never realised his dream of staging Aida in its actual setting. The nearest he came was a performance at the Cairo Opera House in 1871. Now over a 120 years later the Egyptian government have decided to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the discovery of Tutankhamum's Tomb with both a special exhibition of the treasures found and for what promises to be a spectacular presentation of Aida in the idvilic setting of Queen Hatshepsut's Temple at Thebes.

A cast of hundreds includes actists from the Cairo Ballet Company and Symphony Orchestra, achorus of 300 members, 100s of Egyptian soldiers to take part in the triumphal march, plus many on horseback who will ride up the Processional Way into the temple itself. The five-night itinerary also includes a flight to Cairo and a stay at one of the world's most famous hotels Mena House which overlooks the Pyramids, for a visit to the Egyptian Museum where on display will be treasures from Tutankhamun's Tomb rarely seen by the public. The visit concludes with a Son et Lumière performance at the Sphinx and Pyra-mids. This will take place during an 8-day period in October, probably the loveliest month to visit Upper Egypt.

The Programme Day I Depart Gatwick by Air 2000 or Monarch Airways non-stop flight to Luxor. On arrival transfer to the 5star Nile Diamond which will be our

accommodation and our base. Day 2 Visit the Valley of the Kings at Thebes, containing 62 excavated tombs. Continue to Medinet Habu and the Colossi of Memmon before return

ing to our vessel.

Day 3 The MS Diamond sets sail in the morning through a timeless Nile scenery to Qena. On arrival make the short drive to Denderah to visit the Temple of Hathor and the Tomb of Osiris, Return to Luxor in the evening. Day 4 Visit the Temple of Karnal

and the Temple of Luxor. In the after-noon relax and enjoy the sights of the Nile as we make a cruise south o Luxor returning in afternoon. After cocktails and canapes travel to Queen Hatshepsut's Temple for the celebration performance of Aida. Afterwards return to the vessel for a Gala Dinner.

Day 5 Fly to Cairo and travel onwards to the Pyramids at Giza and the Hotel Mena House that overlooks them. Visit the Egyptian Museum and the 75th anniversary exhibition displaying the treasures from Tutankha-mun's Tombwhich are rarely on public view. In the evening attend a Sor et Lumière performance in front of the Sphins and Pyramids.

Day 6 The morning is reserved for independent sightseeing or relaxa-tion in the hotel's grounds. Our spefor the return flight to Gatwick.





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Answers from page 25 SCOMFISH (c) To suffocate, stifle, choke (with heat, smoke, a bad

smell). A shortened form of discomfish_ "Her stinking breath/ Was just enough to scomfish ane

(a) To smother, in various. senses. To be smothered. To conceal or hide, to suppress. From Old English, Dutch, Low German and other Teu-

SMOOR

tonic languages.
"The sheep had been smoored by scores in the

SERAPE (c) A shawl or plaid worn by Spanish Americans. From

the Mexican-Spanish sa-I knew that I had seen the last of civilised man under the garb of a Mexican se-

(c) Irregularly marked with white and brown or red, or some similar colour. Propcrly distinguished from piebald, which is sometimes inexactly used for it. A portmanteau of skewed and pie-

"A middle-aged gentleman of hermit habits on a skew-

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14. Shedand PLUS: "Scotland, When will You Go?" ... and following the rugged border and craggy fortresses built to fend off the old adversary, Spain

Land of the high frontier

eterminedly pointing our hired car's
exhaust pipe chewards the beaches
and golf links of the Algarve,
my wife and I draws wife and 1 drove out of Faro airport and took the road north to begin our exploration of Portugal's wildest and unspoilt hinterland

We began by meandering up the languid, muddy west bank of the River Guadiana. looking across the water to the yellow and purple hues of Andalusia, blooming with late May wild flowers on the other side. For nearly 100 kilometres (about 60 miles), the river keeps those old adversaries, Spain and Portugal, apart before swinging inland to let a jagged ridge of mountains take over as the natural

At Mertola, the highest navigable point, the river tightens into rocky gorges and rapids. We stopped to explore a castle, the southernmost in a string of defensive fortresses built by the awesome Dom Diniz in the 13th and 14th centuries. Dom Diniz (King Dennis to some) was the colossus of Portuguese history who established the national frontiers which are virtually unchanged today. We sat on his ramparts.

overlooking a wide chasm, and picnicked on ewe's cheese and juicy oranges while black vultures wheeled overhead. Later, exploring the small town, we stumbled on an extraordinary little domed church. "A mosque," my wife said, after finding Arabic inscriptions on the stone columns. Few original Moorish buildings survived the Christian armies' reconquest of the Moors, but arabesque archi-

tecture is everywhere. We struck out across the cork forests which blanket this Alentejo region, kilometres peeling away between villages domed, whitewashed houses with low arches and lattice chimneys. Ever present in the distance loomed the backbone ridge, rising abruptly from the plains.

of Dom Diniz's craggy castles at Moura and Mourao, both of them looking threateningly across at "o pais vizinho" (the neighbouring country), as Spain is often referred to. We stopped at yet another fortified town, hilltop-crowning Monsaraz, staying at a farmhouse.

"Neither good winds nor good marriage come from Spain," Joaquim Almeida, a fellow guest, warned without any apparent hint of irony,

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repeating an oft-quoted Portuguese proverb. He was a cork dealer, and knew who to blame for the searing easter-lies which have brought drought and ruin to many farmers over the years.

From the Alentejo crossed the fertile flood plain. of the Tagus, through rice paddies and pastures grazed by big, black fighting bulls: Then we began to climb into the mountains of the Serra da Estrela, Portugal's highest and most austere range.

reaching nearly 6,000ft.

As we twisted our way up to the raw, barren high Serra, stunted trees gave way to scrubby grass and heather strewn with boulders. We drove through a moonscape of weird rock formations, including a realistic-looking natural sculpture known locally as the "Old Man's Head", with a hooked nose and lichen splattered over his bald pate.

e snaked over a pass and drop-ped into Manteigas, the market town for shepherds and farmers whose flocks and small holdings are scattered over the lower slopes of the Serra. There is a small spa, a neatly tiled church, a proud little Next day we set off for a hike

over a forested mountain track to the village of Verdelhos. The starting point was a deep rockpool known as Poco do Inferno - Hell's Well - at the foot of a waterfall cascading down from the crags above. Our trail wound through a rather eerie, dark forest. We had been told that somewhere near here - nobody knew quite where was one of the last remaining wolf dens in the Serra da

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Kusadasi, Terkey.

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The above gives just a brief outline. In most ports of call there is a choice of excursions available

Astidod, Israe

Haifa, Israel

At sea Tanus, Syria



yell. I turned round to see a large, wolf-like beast, its head held low, loping towards us along the track we had just walked. As I bent to pick up a stone, it turned tail and disappeared round the mountainside trail, to re-emerge a few minutes later at the heel of an elderly, toothless goatherd leading his charges, their bells

The goatherd, his dog barking menacingly at the goats to prevent them from straying,

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voice dropping to a conspiratorial whisper as he turned away from my wife, how wolf blood is introduced into the strain: "In winter, a bitch on heat is taken deep into the forest and tied to a tree overnight; then along comes a male wolf and . .

The final stage of our journey was to Tras-os-Montes --Behind the Mountains" - in the far northeast corner. We crossed the Douro via the old iron bridge at Pinhao, then hugged the valley of the Pinhao tributary's winding valley which flattened out into a counterpane of small holdings. Tiny plots of land, often bordered by olive trees, were being worked with ploughs drawn by mules.

Capital of the region is Braganca, a fortress city of once huge strategic importance, fought over by Romans, Visigoths, Moors and Christians. The dukedom of Braof Portugal, and Catherine of was Queen Consort to Charles II (of Britain). But we found only an agricultural hub. where illustrious old buildings are faded. Within the city walls, chickens and snottynosed infants scratched about. Such is the price of becoming a eaceful backwater.

Making our way to Oporto airport at our journey's end, we followed the Portuguese bank of the River Minho, another natural border with the neighbouring country. We tual in the Bairro Alto-- will stopped for lunch at Caminha near the mouth, and had a quick look round the Igreja Matriz fortress-cum-church. Outside, a stone gentleman determinedly points his back-

side towards Spain. wonder whether Dom Diniz would have approved.

MARTIN SYMINGTON ● The author was a guest of the National Portuguese Tourist Office.

SERRA DA ESTRELA FACT FILE

■ Tour operators offering fly-drive packages to Portugal include Magic of Portugal (0181-741 1181), Mundi Color (0171-828 6021) and Sunvil Holidays (0181-568 4499). For a weeklong "open-jaw" fly-drive based on flights into Faro and out of Oporto (or vice versa), car hire and B&B accommodation, expert to pay about £700 to £900 per person, based on two people sharing.

Off the beaten track, accommodation can be scarce. The solution generally lies in a combination of pousadas (a network of state-run inns), Turismo de Habitacao (private houses in rural locations offering B&B for about £20 per person per night) and a few independent country hotels. Recommended is the farmhouse-style Horta da Moura (00 351 66 55206) at Monsaraz in the Alentejo, about £49 single, £56 double, including breakfast, and the Quality Inn (00 35) 75 313809) located high in the Serra da Estrela, from £37 single, £49 double, with breakfast. The best place to stay in Braganca is the Pousada de Sao Bartolomeu, looking across a valley to the castle (UK central pousada booking number: 0171-402 8182). Single from £25, double from £38, with breakfast.

Spring and autumn are the best times for touring. Summers can be extremely hot, especially in Alentejo.

Portuguese National Tourist Office, 22-25a Sackville Street, London WIX IDE (0171-494 1441).

Reading: Serra da Estrela: Recollections of an Excursion to the Monasteries of Alcobaca, by William Beckford (Centaur, £22, ISBN 0 900 00078 3). The City and the Mountains, by Eca de Queiros (Carcanet, £14.95, ISBN 1 857 54102 2). Lisbon and Central Portugal, by Brian and Eileen Anderson (A & C Black, £12.99, ISBN 0713641479).



Fabulous darling but don't have the cod

dmirers of the film Casablanca will remember that the one desire of all the political refugees who frequent Rick's Bar is to get to Lisbon. Their aim was to escape the Vichy re-gime, ours was a less serious one: to escape the great freeze by visiting a city where the winter temperature is 57F.

The first thing that strikes one about Lisbon is the design of its pavements: everywhere tessellated in small black and white marble squares, arranged to give a simple chequerboard effect, an ornate floral pattern, or to spell out the name of a shop or hotel. Made by hand, these are very flattering to the feet, positively encouraging one to walk around the city; and indeed Lisbon, like Amsterdam or Venice, is made for walking although one shouldn't ignore the temptation to leap occasionally on one of the little yellow toy-like trams that clank up and down its hills.

Down the middle of the city, aimed at the River Tagus, runs Lisbon's Champs Elysées, the Avenida da Liberdade, which culminates in the Baixa, the lower town. Devastated by the earthquake of All Saint's Day 1755, which destroyed Lisbon and killed 15,000 people, the area was rebuilt to the design of the Marques de Pombal in a rectangular grid pattern. Its axis, the Rua Augusta, is the smart shopping centre. It is imposing, monumental urban architecture; especially im-pressive is Commerce Square, with one side open to the river, and its huge equestrian statue of Jose 1. To either side of the Baixa, however, on two steep hills, are two very different districts which suffered far less from the earthquake — the Alfama to the east, and the Bairro Alton, the upper city, to

The Alfama, the oldest district of Lisbon, which still shows its Moorish ancestry, has to be visited on foot: its cobbled streets are hardly wide enough for a bicycle, let alone a car.
As we meandered through

the maze of alleys, up and down flights of steps, canaries chirped from the windows overhead; over the wroughtiron balconies of the houses, with their pastel-washed or out to dry. Here there was an ancient tiled fountain, there a belvedere with a view over the red roofs and to the River Tagus beyond. The Rua de Sao Pedro is lined with bars, calés and restaurants, into one of which we turned for lunch.

Food and drink are cheap by British standards, though dinner in one of the smartest restaurants - Gambrinus in the centre of town, with the best fish in Lisbon, or ConvenFACT FILE

Crystal Cities (0181-241 5040) otters three nights at the Hotel Lisboa Plaza from £349 per person including return flights. B&B accommodation and transfers.

■ Reading: Baedeker Guide to Lisbon (AA, E8,99, ISBN 074951406 X): Travels in My Homeland, by Almeida Garrett (Peter Owen. E12.95, ISBN 0720 60663 2); The History of the Siege of Lisbon. by José Saramago (Harvill, £8.99, ISBN 860 46132 8).

give your credit card the kind of jolt it would get in a similar establishment in London. If the Portuguese national drink is port, the national dish is salt cod, bacalhau, which appears on every menu: there are, it is said. 365 ways of cooking it. In a spirit of research we

tried it a couple of times, concluded that it was an acquired taste, and revived ourselves with pastries and coffee; Lisboans are justifiably fond of their pastries: we found the best selection at the cafe on the corner of Rossio Square and the Rua do Ouro. The most interesting coffee

house is the oldest, A Brasileira on the Rua Garret, once a haunt of the poet Fernando Pessoa, and still frequented by Lisbon's literary and artistic set, one of whom presumably supplied the modern paintings behind the bar. The other old district, the

Bairro Alto, is more regular in plan than the Alfama, and has wider streets: here, 100, laundry is the preferred means of decoration. Its heights can be reached by two funicular railways, or by the Santa Justa elevator, a freestanding lift. erected in 1902, with an exuberantly Gothic exterior.

The district, lit by Victorian

lanterns, comes alive at night here you can find the best fado clubs - A Severa or Lisboa a Noite, both in the Rua das Gaveas, for example - and can enjoy the quintessential Lisbon experience listening to female singers swather in black belting out those songs of jealousy and unrequited love that are Portugal's contribution to world music.

If you're addicted to markets of any kind, then you must visit the Ribeira Nova. Lisbon's covered food market, in a splendid bailding on the bank of the Tagus, just beyond the railway station at Cais do Sodre titself a fine example of Art Deco architecture).

Piles of fish, from huge tuna to tiny sardines, were heaped on marble slabs on the ground floor. Upstairs, among the fruit and vegetables, a florist plaited flowers into a multi-coloured heart, presumably for a wedding. We dived into the crowd and emerged triumphantly with garlands of dried

chilis and a plait of garlic. Exploring further, we found a dusty half of bric-a-brac, a good place to come if you run out of reading matter. The hoxes of second-hand books yielded a number in English.

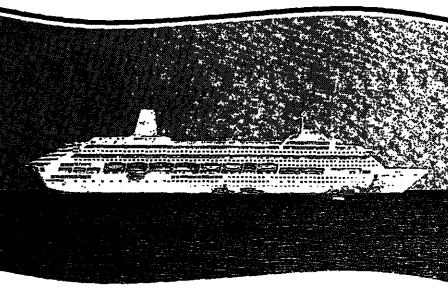
ust a short taxi ride down the river is the suburb of Belem, where the Tagus meets the sea. Portugal's great explorers left from here -Vasco da Gama for India, Magellan to circumnavigate the world and Bartholomeu Dias to round the Cape of Good Hope. There are two monuments to this age of discovery - the early 15th century tower of Belem and the impressive Memorial to the Discoveries, opened in 1960, which has the form of the bow of a caravel, crowded

with symbolic stone figures. After energetic and very enjoyable days we just had time for a valedictory pastry at the airport before, footsore but fulfilled, flying home without a single recipe for salt cod.

TIM BINYON



Alfama on the River Tagus is the oldest district of Lisbon



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Egypt: A journey by boat from polluted Cairo and the pyramids to the ancient tombs and temples of Luxor

Intoxicating mix of history and petrol fumes

he ancient Egyptians believed in immortality. Their motto, un-like that of the Christians, was that you can and should take your wealth with you when you die. The evidence for this belief, in the form of the tombs at Luxor and the Tutankhamun treasure in the Cairo Museum. makes Egypt a fascinating place to visit. Add to this a blue sky and a temperature of about 70F in early January and the arguments for going there become irresistible.

Cairo today could well be described as the Athens of North Africa — and this is not meant as a compliment. Like Athens, it is overwhelmed by the combustion engine. In Cairo the traffic jam has reached the level of an art along in the fast lane while all around them fanatically competitive drivers engage in their personal chicken run to a cacophany of horns. The overriding smell is of petrol.

The main reason to brave all this is to visit the Cairo museum. The treasure from Tutankhamun's tomb is mag-nificent, for the richness of the materials and the artistry of the workmanship; only a small selection of it has ever left the museum for exhibition

There are simpler things to enjoy, too — the lifelike frieze of geese from Meidun (about 2600 BC), the clay models of a court dwarf and his loving family (2000 BC) and a Nile family (2500 BC) and a Nile grandee's favourite possessions, including his house with pool and orchard of fig

impressive seen at dusk, towering over the hotel.

trees (2000 BC). A 3,000-year-old mummified pet monkey is touchingly lifelike and still has fur. The beautifully etched Narmer palette dates from

To enjoy the Cairo treasures without the honking and the petrol smells, the best place to stay is the Mena House Oberoi hotel on the outskirts of the city, beside the pyra-mids. Winston Churchill and General Montgomery, among other celebrities, stayed in the crenellated palace built in 1869 by the Khedive Ismail. There are now 90 expensive and very desirable "palace" rooms and 400 other bedrooms around the casis of the gardens. The hotel is big and mostly

full of tour groups but is stylishly run, with excellent service. It is convenient for visits to the pyramids of Giza and the Sphinx, in itself one of the most moving sights in the world, the older (2650 BC) step pyramid of Zoser at Saqqara, and the remains of the old capital at Memphis.

I found the Giza pyramids disappointing — they look best from a distance, because modern Cairo has encroached too

Few could fail to be im-pressed by the sights of Upper Egypt; the golden Ptolemaic temple of Philae, rebuilt on an

island in the Nile above Aswan, or the feluccus sailing gracefully along the river. Abu Simbel is a three-hour drive to the south; warned by

our guide book that the reconstructed monuments, moved during the Aswan Dam proiect, have an artificial air, we didn't make the trip. We could have stayed at the Old Cata-ract Hotel where, apparently, Agatha Christie wrote Death on the Nile, but chose to cruise down river to Luxor in comfort on the MS Liberty. Gliding along the river, with its strip of narrow agricultural

land backed by the desert, is one of the most peaceful of experiences. You stop for a visit to the splendid Ptolemaic temple of Edfu, but would be better advised to stay on board at Kom Ombo, where the tourist boats mill around in a manner reminiscent of Hyde Park Corner at its worst. Anyway, the temple is better seen at a distance.

The best sights are at Luxor: the Valley of the Kings and the Valley of the Queens on the west bank, the temples of Karnak and Luxor on the east

dawn to buy tickets to the newly restored tomb of Nefertari (access is limited to 150 visitors a day). and did not regret it. As the sun appeared over the mountain tops, the tomb stood out rose-coloured against a deep

Built in about 1250 BC by Rameses II for Nefertari, one of his five wives, the tomb is one of the greatest monuments to human love in the world; the colours and artistry of the wall paintings are breathtaking. "You are in the embrace of history," read the signs at the

"Smile you are in Luxor," others ordered.

The effect of the tombs is immediate: 30 centuries of history seem to have passed in a glance of time.

The temples, too, are among the most impressive you will see; a jumble of different periods and styles each expressing the megalomania of a particular pharaoh.

You can laze by the pool of the magnificent Old Winter Palace Hotel, using it as a base for expeditions, or you can sleep on the boat. Be advised that the Nile boats vary immensely in quality from rackety gin palaces teeming with tourists to the smaller, more

EGYPT FACT FILE

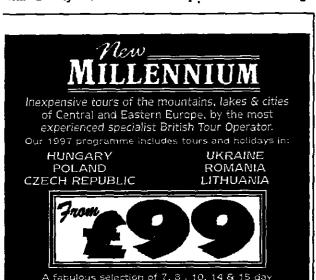
■ Return flights London/Carro start from £310 with Egyptair (\$71-734 2395). British Airways (\$345 22211) offers daily flights from £541.

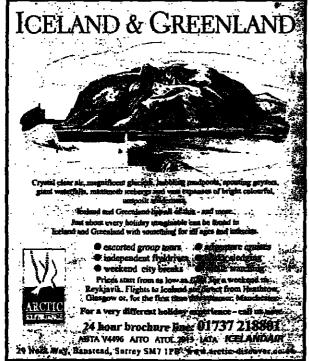
III The Mena House Oberoi hotel (00 20 2 3833444, fax 3837777) offers a double room in the palace from £179 a night, and from £119 for a double in the garden accommodation. Solitel Winter Palace at Luxor (00 20 95 380422; fax: 374087) offers rooms from £34 per person a night (Nile view strendement £60

October and April, when the average temperature in Luxor and Aswan is 70F. ■ Vaccination against typhoid, malaria, polio, tetanus and hepatinis A are

recommended, but see your GP. Reading: A Thousand Miles Up the Nile, by Amelia Edwards (Parkway, 19.99. ISBN 1898 25900 3). The Penguin Guide to Ancient Egypt, by William J. Murnane (El6, ISBN 0140469524). Guide Egypt, by Michael Haag (Cadogan, £12.99, ISBN 040774219

Egyptian Tourist Office, 170 Piccardily, London WIV 9DD (0171-493 5282).





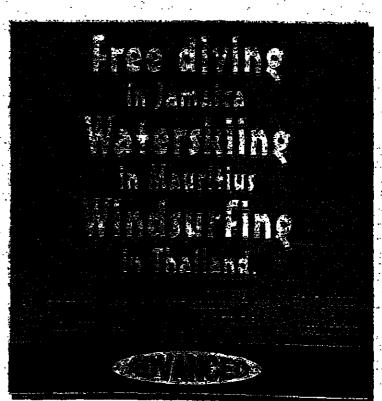


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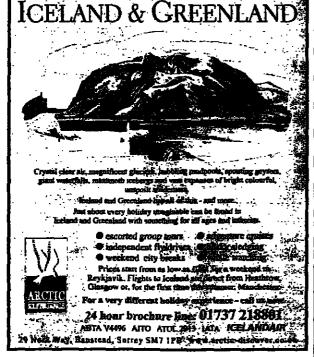
















Cruising: Play your cards right and you, too, could become flushed with success on a Caribbean poker trip

Learning to call a spade a spade

- now you have caught trip jacks, outdrawn by a straight. Cozumel, Mexico finally, a high flush and your opponent catches a deuce to make a full boat

But never mind these temporary setbacks. There is always another deal coming up. That is the joy of a poker cruise a trip which gives fresh meaning to Damon Runyon's famous floating crap game.

This cruise was through the western Caribbean, aboard a Holland America liner, with calls at a succession of sunny islands for sightseeing and snorkelling. Refreshing as it was to go ashore and gulp down frozen daiquiris and raw seafood, no one was in any doubt about the real purpose

of the cruise. If you are a poker player, a gambling cruise is a fantasy come true. Games are in progress round the clock. without the usual domestic distractions back home of placating wives or lovers or organising half a dozen friends to show up on time. Spouses or companions who are not themselves card players can sail away, assured that cruises are organised by a



David Spanier tries his hand aboard the Veendam

there is still plenty of enter-tainment beyond the tables. Sailing on the Veendam, a sleek 55,000 tons, was like being aboard an international hotel. Until the last day of my week, when a swell came up in the Gulf of Mexico, there was almost no sensation of being on water. The sea, of course, was always a presence, under pure blue skies, whenever we card players chose to raise our eyes and look out of the porthole. But when it is time for the next deal, who can glance to port or starboard? It is strictly eyes down. Poker



Ernest Hemingway's fine plantation-style house in Key West, Florida; this is a must-see port of call during the gambling cruise, where each room is still redolent of the writer

travel company in Las Vegas run by June Field — a formidaplayer in her own right. Field's motto is "We pamper our players". With up to 14 tables in action addicts can indulge their passion away from the hustle of regular

It is also an opportunity for players whose previous experi-

ence of poker may be limited to Friday nights round the kitchen table to meet a group of fellow enthusiasts, of all kinds and levels of skill. The Veendam accommodated more than 1,500 passengers, of whom 320 were in the poker group. The games were played in a private room hidden in the prow of the ship, which nonplaying passengers would never discover unless they wandered in by accident.

A merry crew of dealers, lured from their regular employment in the smoky grind of Las Vegas by the draw of a free trip, ran the games. The dealers were not paid salaries on the cruise but relied on tips (usually \$1 a hand) when players won, which is the normal style of American castnos. But unlike typical casino poker, the games were sparked by a shipboard sense of fun - though still serious enough to lose money.

The lowest stake game was seven card stud with a \$2 opening bid (about El.25) and \$4 raises, which is not going to ruin anyone. Texas Hold Em, which is the most popular form of poker in America and Europe, can be learnt in about three and a half minutes. But beware, it takes a lifetime to play well.

The action, day and night. came to a complete stop only when the Veendam docked. First port of call after embarkation at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, was Key West, where Ernest Hemingway's home is a must-see attraction. A fine old plantation-style house. surrounded by tropical green-ery, with plain white rooms under languid overhead fans. is perfectly in character. The writer's battered typewriter can be seen in his study, amid his household bric-a-brac. The whole place is redolent of Hemingway and brings the visitor back to his books with

renewed enjoyment. ext stop was Cozumel, a typical tour-ist township catering for cruise passengers. The atmosphere was relaxed and friendly, un-Ochos Rios, Jamaica, where aggressive tour guides and taxi drivers threatened to overwhelm passengers the moment they stepped ashore. Cozumei offered jewellery and knick-knacks, but my abiding memory (if I could remember it) is of Pedro's and Carlos's bar. The speciality here was pouring tequila down a long tube straight into the visitor's throat, the only known cure

for which is to dance the macarena until you drop. Grand Cayman was the most agreeable tour stop. Perhaps best known as a tax refuge, the island is like a green, easy going home from home, where the letterboxes are red and cars drive on the

for breadcrumbs that a whole shoal will spray over a swimmer like a fountain to get at the food. Further on, beyond Seven Mile Beach, the favoured spot is Sting Ray City. Snorkellers can float on the left. The first attraction of Grand Cayman is the snorkelsurface and observe these ling and, for serious expontriangular creatures swooping ents, deep-sea diving. You can by like Space Invaders. And so go in one metre off the beach back on board for the final and bump into a cornucopia of poker session, played in the

style of a knock-out tournament. The players each paid an entry fee and the winner scooped the pool. Just as on the coral reef, the shoal of colourful fish at the poker tables attracts one or two predators looking for a snack. In the end, the pros take the money while the rest of us have to be content with silk jackets and baseball caps as a memento of the

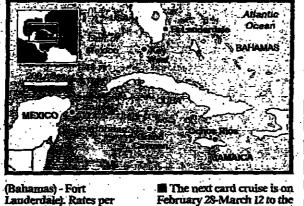
DAVID SPANIER

FACT FILE

Classic Poker Cruises. 2375 E Tropicana Ave, Suite 281, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89119 (001 702 798 6361).

■ The next poker cruise is on June 5-12, sailing to Alaska (Vancouver - Junea) Skagway - Ketchikan -Vancouver). Rates per person start from: inside cabin E705; outside cabin E800; suites E1,325; third and fourth passengers £600; children 2-18 £350. Tipping not required. Port taxes £85 per person.

There is a cruise on November 12-22 to the Caribbean (Fort Lauderdale Willemstad (Curação) -LaGuaira (Venezuela) - St Georges (Grenada) - Roscau (Dominica) - St John (US Virgin Islands) - Nassau



(Bahamas) - Fort Lauderdalej, Rates per person start from: inside cabin £700; outside cabin £800; suites £1,000; third and fourth passengers £460:children under three £150. Port taxes £190.

Card Player Cruises, 2140 S Polaris Avenue, Suite 8, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89102 (001 702 871 1720).

start from £950 per person. An Alaska cruise on May 28-June 4 starts from £475 per person.

Cozumel (Mexico)). Prices

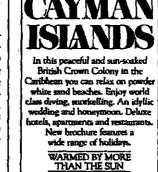
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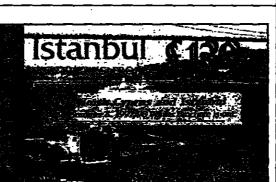
the coral. The fish are so eager

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Britain: Three cities will celebrate the Chinese New Year in style. Tony Kelly visits English Chinatowns

Enjoy the great ball of China

monster, destroyer of homes and crops, who is tions will spill onto the streets.

MANCHESTER

THIS is a little China in the heart of

the city. The imperial archway on

Faulkner Street, designed in Bei-

jing, is the largest in Europe, all

curved roofs and carved dragons, a riot of gold leaf and ceramics in yel-

low, red and blue. At night, when

ants, you could be in Hong Kong. Where is it? Five minutes' walk from Piccadilly Station, between

Princess Street and Charlotte

Where to eat: Charlie Chan's, 39-41

George Street (0161-236 5750). Un-

usual Cantonese cuisine - veal in orange sauce £9.50, flambéed sea-

food in oyster sauce £13. Open 7pm-

Little Yang Sing, 17 George Street (0161-228 7722). Good-value day-

time menu (noon-6pm) -- dim sum, soup, main course and tea, £8.95.

Vegetarian and lobster banquets, £19-£30.

4am daily.

AS THE Year of the Rat gives way to the Ox at midnight on Thursday, Chinese people around Chinese Christmas — most feasting takes place the world will be letting off firecrackers to among families — but over the weekend, in celebrate - and to banish the mythological Nin Manchester, Birmingham and London, celebra-

Pearl City, 33 George Street (0161-228 7683). Dirn sum lunch with roast duck and pork, Mon-Sat

£8.50, Sun £10-£15. Yang Sing, 34 Princess Street (016)-236 2200). The best Cantonese restaurant in Manchester. Dim sum from noon-5pm; banquets

Where to shop: Wing Sat, 49 Faulkner Street. Well-stocked Chinese supermarket.

Health: Chinese Herbal and Acu-puncture Centre, Wuhan House, 16 Nicholas Street (0161-228 0131). For eczema, asthma and menstrual problems. Daily except Friday,

Wai On, 46 George Street (0161-236 4515). Acupuncture and herbal medicine. Daily Ham-opm. What's on: The Chinese Arts Centre, 36 Charlotte Street (0161-

236 9251) has regular exhibitions and Chinese language classes. China — Cradle of Knowledge is an exhibition celebrating 7,000 years of Chinese inventions at the

Museum of Science and Industry, Castlefield (0161-832 1830) from Feb 7 to June 8. Open 10am-5pm daily: adults £5, children £3. New Year events: Sunday, Feb 9:

Open-air party in Chinatown from noon. Lion and dragon dancing. folk music, food and craft stalls. Where to stay: Portland Thistle Hotel (0161-228 3400) is close to Chinatown and Piccadilly Station. Weekend breaks from E34 per night through Highlife Breaks (0800-700 400). Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, Peter Street (0161-236 3333). Double



room E95 at weekends.

A SHORT pedestrian street in Brum's "entertainment quarter" is brightened up by Chinese pillars emblazoned with dragons. The voices here are all Chinese or Cantonese; the shops sell Chinese newspapers and videos and advertise flights to Hong Kong. Where is it? Ten minutes' walk

south of New Street station between Hurst Street and Pershore Where to eat: Alex Café, Arcadian

Centre, Hurst Street (0121-622 4660). Greasy-chopstick café serv-ing everyday snacks such as pork and salted egg congee, £3.20. Chung Ying Garden, 17 Thorp Street (0121-622 6622). Nouvelle Cantonese - dim sum from £2, chicken stuffed with banana £8. Mr Yeung, Upper Level, Arcadian Centre (0121-622 5677). Dim sum from noon-5pm. plus vegetarian menu and Chinese fondues. Sum Ye, Arcadian Centre (0121-622 1525). Takeaway food for £5.

Where to shop: Day in Supermarket, Arcadian Centre. Huge range of oriental food and wine. izer, Arcadian Centre. Chinese silk clothes and kung fu slippers. Wah Kee Bakery, Arcadian Centre. Cookies filled with sweet red beans, barbecued pork and preserved egg. Health: Someway Herbal Clinic, Ladywell Walk (0121-622 6818).



The Chinese community in Birmingham will host a party with Chinese music, arts and crafts, lion dancing and firecrackers

Herbal medicines, acupuncture and aphrodisiacs. Daily except Thursday, ilam-6pm.

New Year events: Saturday, Feb 8:... Outdoor party in Victoria Square, liam-3pm. Chinese music, arts and crafts, lion dance, firecrackers, Chinese food. Where to stay: Hyatt Regency (0121-643 1234) in centre. Weekend

doubles from £69. Ibis Hotel, Hurst Street (0121-622 6010), doubles from £44.

THE Chinese community moved here from Limehouse after the war and in 1985 the area was formally opened as Chinatown, with bilingual street signs. Chinese arches and two stone lions donated by China. Chinatown is centred on. Gerrard Street, lined with Chinese shops and restaurants, their windows adorned with glazed ducks and unmentionable bits of pork. Even the telephone boxes are like red and gold pagodas and there

are advertisements for kung fu teachers and feng shui consultants. Where is it? Between Leicester Square and Shaftesbury Avenue, two minutes walk from Leicester

Square tube.

Where to eat: China China, 3
Gerrard Street (0171-439 7502).

Where the locals go for bunch. Barbecued pork with rice, £3.80. Fung Shing, 15 Lisle Street (0171-437 1539). Cantonese cuisine. Roast pigeon £13, shark's fin hot-pot £50. Harbour City, 46 Gerrard Street (0171-439 7859). "Exotic" dim sum from £1.60 — try chicken claws in "shy maiden" wine sauce. New World, I Gerrard Place (017)-

434 2508). The best place for dim sum, served noon-6pm daily. Most dishes around £2. Wong Kei, 41-43 Wardour Street (0171-437 3071). No cheques or credit cards but the cheapest deal—

hot and sour soup El, set dinner Where to shop: Most shops in Chinatown are open Ham-8pm. Guanghwa, 7 Newport Place.

Books, cards and Chinese crafts.

Loon Fung, 44 Gerrard Street. The Chinese kitchen — woks, bamboo steamers, rice, exotic vegetables. Singalong, 112 Shaftesbury Avemue. Karaoke equipment, plus silk dresses from £50 and jackets, £88. Health: Reijing Tong Ren Tang UK, 124 Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-287 0098). London branch of Chi-

na's leading traditional medicine shop. Open 10.30am-7.30pm. Chinese Medicine Centre, 7 Little Newport Street (0171-287 1095). Largest Chinese clinic in the UK, specialising in skin diseases. Open 1]am-7pm

Po Sau Tong, 24 Lisle Street Apothecary's den, with jars full of bark, twigs and roots. New Year events: Sunday, Feb 9: Dragon and lion dances, Chinese

opera and food stalls on Gerrard Street throughout the afternoon.
What's on: Museum of London, London Wall (0171-600 3699) has New Year events to coincide with its exhibition Half the Sky: Chinese Women in London. Lion dance Ipm and 2.30pm on Feb 9: Chinese

legends (for six years and over).

1.45pm and 3.15pm on Feb.9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 16; mask-making 12.45pm and 2.15pm on Feb 11, 12, 13, 14 and 16. Closed Moni. Tomorrow (Feb 2): Chinese calligraphy at the Ragged School Muserum, 46-50 Copperfield, Road, E3 (0181-980 6405), 2.3pm, 3.30-4.30pm. Free.

4.30pm. Free. Where to stay: Woodyille House, Victoria, SWI (0171-730 1048). From £54 double room, B&B Mount Royal Hotel off Oxford Street, WI (0171-629 8040). From E44 per person per night through Highlife Breaks (0800-700-400).

GETTING THERE National Express (0990 808080) has day returns from London to Birmingham for £12.50 and standard returns from London to Manchester for £20.50. InterCity and regional railways services connect Bilingham, London and Manchester. National

Rail inquiries: 0345 484950. ● The author travelled to Manch as a guest of Highlife Breaks and Central Trains.

The big idea

day breaks



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Skiing: A Nineties look at the club that helped the Sixties to swing; plus what and where to buy for the slopes



The Club Vagabond, perched high above Leysin in the Swiss Alps, is hoping to regain its international reputation of the Sixties for wild, anything-goes aprés-ski parties

Great day, let's party

he 1960s are back in fashion and Club Vagabond, the venue for young international skiers, is swinging again. The former sanatorium. perched above Leysin, one of the highest villages in the Swiss Alps, was the homefrom-home to young backpackers, mountain climbers and skiers from all over the world during the era of love and peace.

in those days at the Vag, as it is affectionately known, the beer was cheap, the drugs and sex readily available and the music loud. It was as close as fiercely conservative Switzerland got to Carnaby Street, and it was a non-stop party. Except, of course, during daythi hours when patrons with anything less than crippling hangovers were out testing their mountain skills.

The good times could not last forever, and neither could the Vag. Its famous mountaineering school lost its allure as climbers lost their lives in alarming numbers, and the Arab oil embargo pretty much killed off the youth travel market. The death in an avalanche in 1976 of Dougal Haston, the British Everest and Eiger veteran who ran the mountaineering school, mark-

ed the end of an era. The Vag somehow limped into the 1980s, but the romance had gone. The Ice Cave, the Vag's subterranean disco that was the heart of Leysin's party scene, was boarded up and tourists began to flock to Switzerland's bigger and more

LEYSIN FACT FILE

Swissair (0)71-434 7300f, which has daily flights from Heathrow to Geneva, offers a special rate of £99 return, Mon-Thurs (£109 weekends, to include a Saturday night) until Mar 31. Then, £123 midweek and £143 weekends. Add £12 tax to all prices.

Leysin is 135km (85 miles) from Geneva, about two hours by car and 23km off the Geneva-Martigny expressway. It has more than 20 hotels, ranging from bunkhouse chalets, such as Club Vagabond (00 41 24 494 1321), to four-star resorts, such as the Classic and Levsin Parc, with prices to match (for full details call the Leysin tourism office on 00 41 24 494 2244.

The British booking agents for Club Vagabond are Low Pressure Travel (0181-960 1916) and Ski Top Deck (0171-370 4555). The Vag's basic price is Sfr25 (about £10.50) per person per night (another Sfr2 for duvet and towels). Seven nights, with breakfast and evening meals, costs Sfr295. Group discounts of 5-10 per cent are available. A tenth night is free for groups of five or more. Snowboard and ski packages, which include accommodation, half board, lift passes and rentals, start at Str245. There are also a summer rock-climbing packages from Sfr390.

Leysin has about 60km of marked ski trails, with 19 lifts, for all levels of expertise. Adult lift tickets are Sfr38 a day, Sfr212 for seven days. Children's tickets are Sfr23 a day, Sfr128 for seven days. The ski school offers group and private lessons in alpine and cross-country skiing, telemarking, snowboarding, acrobatic skiing and paragliding.

Verbier and Gstaad.

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The Vag, however, still had its fans. One was Dominique Grosz, a London film cameraman and Leysin native who was saddened to see the decay of his teenage haunt. So three years ago he bought the place and set about bringing it back to life. Today. Club Vagabond

luxurious resorts, such as is buzzing with young skiers and climbers from dozens of countries. The Ice Cave has reopened and even some of the regulars from the Vag's hey-

day can be seen at the bar.

Alan Rankin, a 69-year-old Canadian who started the Vag in 1961, says the new Vag will never be quite like the old one, but that it has its moments. Living in Leysin and a regular patron of the Vag, he says: "It brings back good memories of the 1960s and 1970s when it was an unbelievable party every night."

fellow journalist and I met Mr Grosz early last year. He discovcred that we all had a mutual passion for skiing and beer and we were soon on a flight to Geneva.

Leysin can be reached by car from Geneva but the two-hour train trip is more enjoyable. The train skirted Lake Geneva, passing Lausanne and Montreux, and dropped us at Aigle in the French speaking Canton of Vaud. We then hopped on to a narrowgauge train that climbed to Leysin (1,350m up) at little more than walking speed. The views of the Rhone valley and the Mont Blanc region were

spectacular. Leysin has an eeric, haunted feel. The village found fame at the turn of the century as a healing centre for tuberculosis patients. As a result, it is dominated by spooky old clinics - with wide doors and halconies to accommodate wheelchairs - that have since found new lives as hotels and

the discovery of antibiotics in the 1940s made it redundant. Today, it looks more like an oversized chalet than a hospital, though the big balconies and spartan rooms remain. Ours was long and narrow. with a triple bunk bed and sink but no lavatory. But it was clean and at Sfr25 (about £10.50) per person a night, plus another Sfr2 for a duvet and towel, it ranks as one of the Alps' great bargains.

We hit the slopes immediately, but soggy, grey clouds ensured near-zero visibility and the runs were icy from lack of snow. Getting to the bottom was a struggle, and once we did we made a beeline for the Vag where, Mr Grosz said, the party was about to begin.

Tirst, however, we ate at Le Feydey restaurant. where the speciality is fondue for real men: no cheese in sight, just great raw chunks of horse, pork, beef and chicken, all lovingly carved by Urban, the chef with the proportions of a small

The party lasted until dawn. It began with gallons of beer in the bar, which later became the stage for a noisy Dutch-Irish band called Albatross. and ended downstairs in the ice Cave, where we danced drunkenly to the funky music of Pony, the skiing DJ from London. The Vag was pulsating like a frat house on a Friday night and we didn't feel out of place even though we were nearly twice the age of

The sun came out the next day and the skiing was fine on the upper slopes. The mountain, which is popular with snowboarders, had a good collection of wide gentle runs and challenging mogul fields, though anyone used to the on and off-piste variety of the mega-resorts would probably get their fill after only two or three days.

many of the revellers.

But we didn't come to Leysin for the skiing thrills. We were there for the party, and the Vag does après-ski like nowhere else.

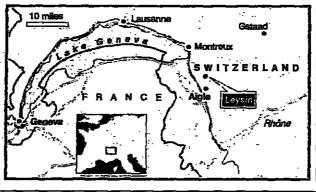
ERIC REGULY • The author was a guest of

Ski travel offer, page 6



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Colorado (01228 792006)

and the second s

Be visible on the slopes what-ever the weather. All-weather Glittertind women's jacket (code: 960402), £79.99 in red or green with matching pants. Kilimanjaro (960302), £69.99 in deep yellow or black. Men's Scooby board/ski jacket (961001). £59.99; Incredible matching trousers (961002), £45.99 in blue, green or russet.

■ The Great Little Trading Company (0990 673008)

Children need to wrap up warm in the snow. For babies, the Fleece Zip-Up Suit is £34.99. For older children and toddiers the Fleece Jacket is £39.99 and Fleece Poncho £21.99, all available in red. emerald or royal blue. For £9.99, with Velcro flap under the chin - in red/navv or emerald/royal blue.

The Snowboard Asylum (0161-834 5555)

Gloves are essential snowboarders. Prices start at £35 for the Columbia Vert Glove (code: 812514) in black, waterproof with reinforced palm and lingers. Or the Fishpaw Whitlock Extreme Mitt (812525), £94.99, which also features a rubber gogglewipe mounted on the thumb. Snowboards, including bind-ings, start at £329.99 for the Simple Board & Binding model.

■ Snow + Rock (01932 569569)

Safety is paramount when skiing off-piste. The Ortovox Avalanche Shovel (ref ASOS). weighing 600g, E65, can be used as an emergency sled or to dig a car out of the snow. To find your way home, the Magellan GPS 2000 route finder (ref MGGPS), £199.50, will guide you.

■ Beauty Quest (054) 505000)

Ideal for the family, the Sun Survival Kit (code: QS1042), £25, contains SPF25 Water Resistant Spray-On SunResistant Sunscreen (4.51) oz); Ice Finalising Gel (III oz) to make tans last longer; SPF25 Lip Protector on a Rope; SPF15 Water Resistant Sunscreen (4.5f) oz) and Aloe Vera Moisturising Gel (8fl oz) to help revitalise sunburnt skin.

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(0161-834 5555) If the weather is appalling, goggles make all the difference. The V3 Regulator (code 670019), £69.99, is unisex and illows airflow to vary according to changing weather con-ditions. The Monashee OTG PMT (670006), £39.99, will fit over most prescription glasses and eliminate pressure on the temple. Both goggles claim to



Colorado's Glittertind jacket

block out 100 per cent of the

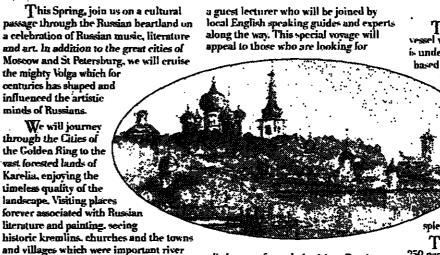
Mulberry (0171-491 3900)

Forget the St Bernard, the 602 Nile Leather Hip Flask, £79, or 4oz at £65, with stainless steel cup, slips neatly into any skiing outfit. Wrap up on the ski lift with a Double Sided Ancient Tartan Rug, El65, in Mulberry tartan, Macrihanish or Ancient McArthur.

Blacks

(0191-416 2929) For serious skiers the SOS Classic Trippler Jacket (code: 340355), £349.99, has a threein-one function: shell, fleece or warm winter jacket. For the more lighthearted, the Moose Head Hat (330697), £19.99; Wild Hat Pl50 (330324), £34.99; and Porridge Fleece Hat Pl49 (330302), £27.99.

PORTIA COLWELL



a little more from their visit to Russia than is offered on a standard itinerary, concentrating on the undeniable wealth of music, literature and art which

developed in 19th century Russia.

THE MS KRASIN This sleek, modern river-cruise

vessel was built in Germany in 1989 and is under long term charter to an American based company. Unlike many other river vessels in Russia the 'Krasin' is only available to travellers in the UK and United States, English :.... 🙀 is the language used on

board, thereby avoiding announcements in other languages. The vessel was completely refurbished in 1995 with quality imported furnishings and the public rooms which include three lounges, bars and a

splendid concert hall are second to none. There is accommodation for up to 250 passengers and all cubins have outside views, shower and toilet. Upgraded meals are prepared under the supervision of a western chef and complimentary wine

is served with dinner.

RUSSIA OF THE GREAT COMPOSERS, WRITERS AND PAINTERS

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THE ITINERARY

DAY I London (Gatwick)-Moscow with British Airways afternoon departure. Drive to the Krasin and embark. D4Y 2 Moscow Morning visit to the Kremlin

trading centres in the Middle Ages.

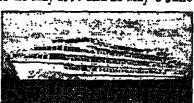
Our voyage through Russia promises to be an enjoyable and calightening experience. Travelling with us will be

including the Armoury Museum. In the afterno visit the Pushkin Museum and town house in which Tolstoy lived from 1882-1999. Exening performance at the Bolshoi. DAY 3 Moscow In the marning drive to Klin for

A visit to Tehnikovsky's home. Afternoon visit to the Tretyakov Gallery, Sail in the late afternoon DAY 4 lightch Morning craising the Volga. Alternoon visit to lightch. See the Church of St John and the Cathedral of the Resurrection. Tearwich Dmitri, the last son of Ivan the Terrible was murdered here, an event which formed the background to Pushkin's drama and Museorgaky's opera Boris Godunos.

DAY 5 Knstroma Before the Resolution, Kostroma was a great centre of the arts and home to the games and Codunes - Today it is one of the loveliest rities of the Golden Ring, See the historic centre including the lpatyersky Monstery and drive to nearby Plyos, a charming Volga to where Isaar Levitan, perhaps the best of all Volga landscape painters produced his best work.
Visit the gallery before returning to Kostroms

DAY 6 Yaroslay! A city of eupolas and spires where aristocratic clossicism blends with typical Russian mercantile colour creating a city of great interest Prince Andrei Bolkonsky from Tolston's War and Peace' died here and this was also the site of Kussia's first National Theatre and first proxincial newspaper. See the 17th century church of Elijah the Prophet and explore its ancient streets.



DAY 7 Coritsy Nearly is the imposing and furtress-like Kirillo-Relozersky Monastery. Afternoon cruising.

DAY 8 Kirchi Spend the morning cruising on the vast lake of Onega. Here in the majestic Karelian countryside we will visit the tion island of kighi (amous for its 22 domed wooden church. which was created without the aid of a single باندم لمهري

DAY 9 Svir Stroy Today we will stop at a small settlement on the River Stroy which links the two great lakes of Onega and Ladoga. It is a charming area of large, and forcest and ideal but COUNTY WALLS

DAY 10 St Petersburg Morning city drive around St Petersburg's aristocratic palaces and a visit to the Russian Unseum which specialises in Russian art from the 18th century onwards. Afternoon visit to the Pushkin Palace. Localing performance at the Maritasky Theatre. DAY 11 St Petersburg Morning visit to the incomparable Hermitage Museum. After lunch there will be a four of the Rimsky-Korsakav Museum. Evening bullet performance at the restored intimate theatre in the Vinter Palace which was unce the personal theatre of

DAY 12 St Peter-burg-London (Gatwick) Permission is being sought for a visit to the Brudsky Museum which is scheduled to open in the spring. Afternoon flight with British Airways.

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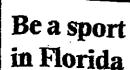
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The Carlo

THE SUCCESS of Tim Henman in Australia and his elevation into the world's top 20 is already increasing interest in tennis, as it did in Roger Taylor's heyday. The Boca Raton Resort & Club on Florida's Gold Coast, where Steffi Graf, Jennifer Capriati and a host of other champions train, is offering inclusive tennis packages with unlimited use of one of the 30 courts and professional tennis clinics from £255 a night for two people sharing. In addition to the courts (which are ingeniously watered from below), Boca Raton has half a mile of private beach, two 18-hole golf courses, several swimming pools and a fitness centre. Booking may be made via Utell International (0990 300200). Several tour operators offer inclusive packages including Elegant Resorts, Kuoni and British Airways Holidays.

City types

THE YHA (01727 855215) will open two new city Youth Hostels this summer - in the Albert Dock region of Liverpool and at St Pancras in London. The new purpose-built Liverpool hostel will have 100 beds with four and fivebedded rooms, while that in London, opposite the new British Library, will have 150. Overnight B&B prices at Liverpool will be £12.50 for adults, £8.65 for under ills, and at St Pancras £20,50 and £17.50 respectively.

Walking Italy

A TEN-DAY walk, the Southern Lucano Trail through the Pollino, Italy's wildest National Park, travelling from Terranova di Pillino to Maratea on the west coast, is a new escorted-group holiday from Alternative Travel (01865 513333). The firm specialises in journeys on foot through some of the most beautiful and often lesser known countryside in Europe. There's nothing hair shirt about the accommodation which tends to be in three and four-star hotels, with good food and wine considered a just reward at the end of the day. The trip costs £1,345 with full board and flights. For those who prefer to go it alone and set their own pace, a seven-night holiday in Latium and Orvieto north of Rome, sets off from walled Viterbo following the ancient Roman road via



JILL CRAWSHAW'S INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL TIPS

The Boca Raton Resort & Club on Florida's Gold Coast offers packages of golf or tennis from £225 for two people sharing

Cassia and continuing from medi-eval Bolsena via the old pilgrims' route to Orvieto. Luggage is transported between hotels and the price, which includes flights, is from £750 half board.

Go Guyanan

THOUGH sometimes promoted oddly as an alternative Caribbean destination (it has neither the glamour nor the good beaches), the real appeal of little-known Guyana — the only English-speaking country in South Amercia — lies in the great rivers of the Amazon basin, its virgin forests, wildlife and waterfalls such as the magnificent Kaietur Falls and atmospheric gold and mining towns like Barrica straight out of the Old West. Plus working cattle ranches, Amerindian villages and a potentially highly attractive, though neglected, colo-nial capital Georgetown.

Trips Worldwide (0117-987 2626) offers a week's tour for £1,455, two weeks for £2,250 for accommodation, most meals and BWIA flights via Trinidad or Barbados.

Scilly things

GARDENERS and writers can head for the Island Hotel (01720 422883) in the Isles of Scilly for gardeners' holidays in April and September, and a new Writers' Workshop in April. The classroom is Tresco's Abbey Gardens, famous for its collection of exotic plants, shrubs and trees. The curator, Mike Nelhams, will advise on how to grow some of the plants in less temperate climates, as well as giving tutorials on glasshouse cultivation and propa-

The poet and lecturer, Hilary Elfick, will conduct the writers' workshop, drawing on Tresco's environment and surrounding islands as inspiration. Both courses cost £595 a week half board, but excluding travel to the Scillies.

loman gem

ALL SEVEN Ionian islands are offered by the Greek Island Club (01932 220477) including, for the first time, remote little Kythira, which still retains the magic ingredients that make up the ideal Greek Island; a crumbling Venetian fortress, blue domed shrines perched on rocks, an ancient capital on high, resorts where fishing boats outnumber the noisy

jetskis, and clear, unpolluted wat-

er (pebbles rather than sand

beaches). Minoan tombs and Byz-

antine churches add historical interest. Two weeks in the Captain's House on the waterfront at Kapsali costs from E62S including

flight and an overnight hotel stay

Field courses

FARM HOSPITALITY is offered throughout Poland at some 6,000 farms or smallholdings, with facilities ranging from chalets to camp sites, with overnight costs in the region of £2-£8 per person, or E8-E15 with full board.

There is no central reservation system but the Polish National Tourist Office in London (0)71-580 8811) has full details, and contact points in the various regions of Poland.

MOTORCYCLE and Motorhome hire in America is offered by Travelpack (0990 747101). A Goldwing, Nighthawk Triumph Trophy or Thunderbird costs from £232 a week, while a Campervan sleeping a family of three costs from 5283 a week. rising to £415 for a top of the range model sleeping seven. The first 500 miles and insurance are included in the price.

in top gear

Turkish tastes

AS TURKEY becomes more popular it was inevitable that someone would offer Unknown Turkey. The Imaginative Travellers (0181-742 8612) offers a 16-night trip, with two nights on the ferry from Istanbul along the Black Sea coast, then crossing the country from east to west. The Sumela Monastery near Trabzon is included, plus a dip in the hot springs in the Hemsin Valley, the ancient city of Erzurum, and a two-day walking exploration of Cappadocia — at a cost of 1695.

Magic carpet to France

rench Railways are offering a new sensation. On the TGV route from Paris to Lyons you can now travel by Duplex, a double-decker carriage not unlike a luxury motorway coach which, at speeds close to 300km an hour (about 187mph) gives the impression of low-level flying - exhibarating but in no way unnerving. Whenever I travel across France

I try to go by TGV, the high-speed train that points to a golden future for rail transport. With comfortable seating and plenty of leg room, the flagships of French Railways appeal equally to passengers who want a working journey as to those in need of relaxation.

Soon there will be Duplexes on several routes. Demand for TGV seats is outpacing supply and they are one way of increasing capacity without affecting speed.

It is no coincidence that the Duplexes should appear first on the Paris to Lyons line. The extraordinary thing about the new generation of European rail services is how they have opened up places hitherto virtually closed to tourist traffic. Lyons is a case in point. Until recently, the leisure appeal of this marvellous city with its great Roman amphitheatre, a Renaissance old town where once silk traders thrived, a wealth of musuems and gallèries and some of the best restaurants in France was overshadowed by its commer-

cial reputation. But no longer. With the experience of the train journey being part of the enjoy-ment of a three or four-day break, Lyons has come into its own as a worthy rival to more familiar tions on the tourist trail.

For British visitors to Lyons the

starting point is the Eurostar terminal at Waterloo. There is a choice of routes, Going out I went via Lille, which avoids the crush in Paris and cuts the journey to about six hours. This change from Eurostar to TGV is a mere walk between platforms with plenty of

time to spare. For the return, it was the Duplex to Paris and then a switch from Gare de Lyons to Gare du Nord for the Eurostar. There is now a direct fast track between the two stations but even taking the Metro there

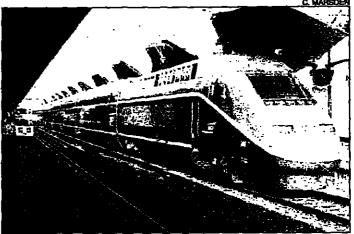
was no sense of rush.
Back on the TGV Duplex, I have two minor criticisms. The first is the disappointment in not being able to enjoy a decent meal. Everything has been buffetised so that the best one can do is to put together a selection of dishes from the microwave. But this is pricey.

Just a sandwich and a quarter bottle of Beaujolais set me back about £6 so, not surprisingly.

many people took their own food. My other gripe has to do with French railway officials. I do wish they could be more cheerful. The conductor who checked my ticket studied it for so long and with such close attention as to imply that somehow I was up to no good. When, at last, the ticket was handed back it was with a curt nod that seemed to threaten, for next time, 30 days without the option.

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• For French Railway reservations phone the Rail Shop on 0900 30003 or call at French Railways House, 179 Piccadilly, London WIY OBA. A return fare from London to Lyans. to include one Saturday night away, is 199 standard and £199 first class.



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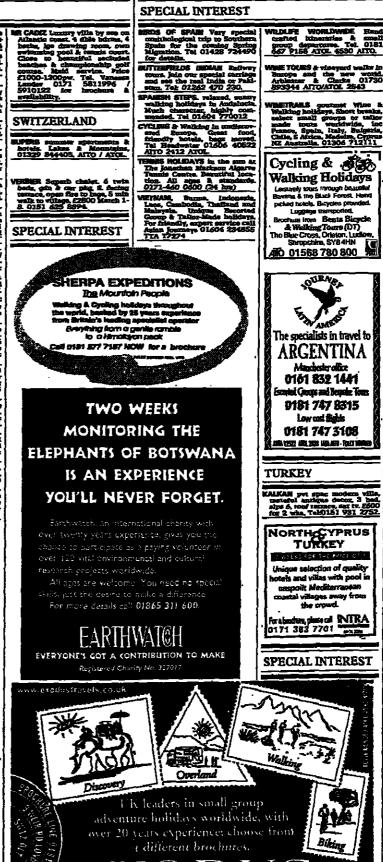
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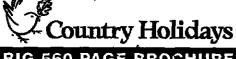
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Scottish Ferries

by Raymond Keene

I HAVE been asked to publish what is perhaps the most brilliant game on record. Certainly 19thcentury experts such as Steinitz regarded this as one of the supreme masterpieces. White sacrifices virtually his entire army, including his queen, to pin the black king down in the centre and deliver a spectacular mate.

White: Anderssen Black: Kieseritsky . London, 1851 King's Gambit

e5 2 14 3 Bc4!? Usual here is 3 Nf3 developing a piece and preventing 3 . . . Qh4+. The move chosen by Anderssen is more speculative.

3 . . . Qh4+ 4 Kfl b5?! Black replies to White's aggressive choice of opening with a counter-gambit. By playing 3 . . . b5. Black hopes to entice White's bishop away from c4 (where it attacks f7) and at the same time to clear the a8-h1 diagonal for occupation by his own queen's bishop. Actually, though, the idea has little merit.

5 Bxb5 Nf6 6 Nf3. Gaining another useful tempo by developing a piece with an attack against

Black's queen.
6 . . Qh6 7 d3 Nh5? More consistent would have been 7 . . . Bb7. The move that Black actually played is inferior. Black now threatens 8 . . . Ng3+ 9 hxg3 Qxh1+, but White's next move is a more

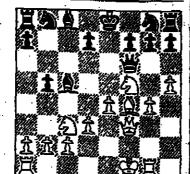
than adequate reply.

8 Nh4 Heading for the dominating outpost square 5 — and, of course, preventing 8 . . . Ng3+. 8 ... Qg5 9 Nf5 c6 10 g4 Nf6?

Better would have been 10 . . . cxb5 11 gxh5, but Black gets greedy and plays to win White's g-pawn. No doubt Black expected the game to continue 11 Bc4 Qxg4, but Anderssen decides to sacrifice his bishop for a pawn and a raging attack.

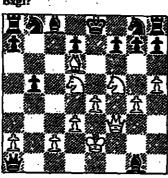
CXD5 12 h4 Qg5 14 Qf3! 11 Rg1! 13 h5 With the terrible threat of 15 Bxf4 winning Black's queen. To gain some mobility for his consort, Black is forced to "undevelop" his only active minor piece.

14 ... Ng8 15 Bxd4 Qf6 16 Nc3 Bc5



17 Nd5t? A more prosaic but nore effective alternative was 17 d4! after which White's position is overwhelming. If 17 . . . Bxd4 18 Nd5 wins easily. The text plans an amazing sacrificial continuation and deserves its "!" for the brilliance of the conception. Unfortunately, a "?" has to be added, since the idea has a flaw.

17 ... Qxb2 18 Bd6 Qxxl+ 19 Kc2 Bxgl?



A double mok sacrifice! Alas the outcome would have remained torally obscure, if Black had refrained from snatching the second rook, and instead played 19 . . . Qb2 Much analysis has been devoted to this variation, but no one has yet shown that White has a forced win. After Black's error, Anderssen finds a sparkling conclusion.

20 e5!! A quiet move, but none-theless decisive. By blocking Black's queen, White threatens 21

Nxg7+ Kd8 22 Bc7 mate 20 . . . Na6. After 20 . . . Ba6, 21 Nc7+ Kd8 22 Nxa6 Black could resist a bit longer, but the outcome would be the same. 21 Nrg7+ Kd8 22 Of6+! A final queen sacrifice to top off the combination! 22... Nxf6 23 Be7 mate.

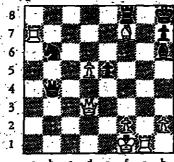
WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene White to play.

This position is from the game Hansen - Mortensen, Veile 1993. Can you spot White's neat continuation which forced immediate checkmate?

Send your answer on a postcard to The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London EI' 5 9XN. The first correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the 3 Staunton Society, which includes a free invitation to the 2 annual dinner at Simpson's-in- 1 the Strand. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Qxf8+ Last week's winner: Mark Scott from Sarisbury Green, Southampton.



PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from The Strand Magazine (reproduced from Westminster Libraries. Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week with a caption from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption 37, Weekend, The Times, Pennington Street, London El 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, February 5.





so that Daddy can breathe'

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Michael Hunt of Gwynedd

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard SCOMFISH

b. Slippery c. To choke SMOOR

a. The rock cod

a. To be choked b. A knife c. Nose pick

SERAPE a. The lentil b. A backward jamb c A shawl

SKEWBALD a. With falling hair b. A Viking bard c. White and brown

Answers on page 16

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

IN question 5 of the Christmas quiz, you were East on the hand pelow. This was the auction:

1 D 2 D 3NT

Your partner leads the queen of spades, and declarer wins with the king and returns the nine of diamonds, running it to your queen. You were asked to plan the defence, seeing only the North and East hands.

+72 ¥A532 ♦KJ10873 **₽**J N - 4953 **₽**QJ108 E ₹K76 ¥ 10 8 4 +A2 . **S** -4Q1098 **+**7642 +AK64 **₹**0J9 +94 #AK53

Contract: SNT by South Lead: queen of spaces

The deal is from Albert Dormer's new compendium. The Complete Book of Bridge (Victor Gollanz), a remarkably comprehensive work. and good value at £15 for 450 pages. These are the steps in the analysis. First, you know your partner has only four spades - declarer bid the suit on the second round of the auction. Your partner is marked with six or seven points, as South has shown about 17-18. The next reliable inference is that

your partner has the ace of diamonds — else declarer would have played ace and another. So with queen and jack of spades all of your partner's points are accounted for. and you won't get anywhere by returning the queen of clubs. But playing spades immediately will only give your side four tricks.
What about the declarer's tricks?

The brainwave — you can knock out dummy's entry to the diamonds

by returning the king of hearts. Declarer has to let this hold or say goodbye to the diamonds, and now the cash registers ring red-hot (to use one of Dormer's phrases) as you switch back to spades to establish the setting trick.

THE convincing winners of the Macallan International Pairs were Lorenzo Lauria and Alfredo Versace. They were members of the Italian team that won the 1995 European Championship. They must now be rated one of the top six pairs in the world. The Danes Auken and Blakset were second, with Hamman and Wolff third, Forrester and Robson fourth and Omar Sharif and Mari fifth.

The main surprise was the poor performance (12th of 16 pairs) of leff Meckstroth and Eric Rodwell ("Meckwell"), winners of the event for the past two years, and currently rated the best pair in the world. This year only simple natural systems were allowed, and so Meckwell were not able to play their extremely complicated One Club system.

To put that in perspective, the restrictions didn't seem to affect the winners or Hamman and Wolff (3rd); both pairs had to change their methods radically for the event, from a Strong Diamond and a Strong Club system respectively.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

CUPID, draw back your bow and: with the aid of your trusted computer, let your arrow go. With Valentine's Day just around the corner, now is the time one particular software genre comes into its own - handwriting fonts.

Traditionally the biggest single giveaway when sending anonymous Valentine cards is the handwriting on the envelope. Of course, you could type the address but such results can seem a little too clinical, obvious even. Alternatively, you can import other scalable handwriting fonts from a host of budget titles and, along with them, more than a hint of mystique.

Expert Software's Handwriting Fonts, on dual-format Mac and Windows PC CD-Rom, gives you a choice of 300 True Type "joined-up" handwriting styles. These range: from the immature to the immacu-. late hand, with styles upright or leaning left or right.

Handwriting Fonts includes an effective reader application, to let 300 fonts to select which ones you want to install in your PC. Once loaded, you can opt for any of the new fonts in practically all of your design and word-processing appli-cations on your hard-drive. The

drawback to Expert Software's title is that practically all the freehand fonts represent modern handwriting styles, most of which look

pretty scratchy. For greater choice of more traditional handwritten styles, such as Olde English calligraphy, try True Type Script Fonds from VCl's Premiere Collection. Although this only gives you 45 fonts on its single PC floppy disc, the range is more diverse. Instead of merely disguis-

ing your tracks on the envelope, you can go a step further by designing your own Valentine cards with a greetings card maker. Several newcomers offer a comprehensive range of cards - including Christmas, birthday and get well - which can all be designed, tweaked and printed in a matter of

For its Greetings Workshop Microsoft turned to the well-established Hallmark card company for inspiration. The result is a clean point-and-click card generator with more than 2,000 ready-to-use Hallmark Connections cards and proj-

by Tim Wapshott



The star prize in Cyberspace Thirty is a Polaroid digital camera, worth £2,650

ects. The bumper library of clip art, graphics, photos and scalable fonts here are more than enough to let you express yourself perfectly. PrintMaster Suite, also on Windows 95 CD-Rom. It is as easy to master and boasts a large database

of eraphics and photos. Of course, if you have a digital camera there's nothing to stop you

including pictures of yourself in your cards — but that's not such a good trick to try on Valentine cards. For me, though, the classic card printing package remains Sierra's PrintArtist CD-Rom for its versatility and quality. As well as the usual run of cards. banners and certificates, PrintArtist has a superior range of paper projects such

as miniature shops and cars. which children love to make. Taking that creative option further is Guildsoft's Make Me A World CD-Rom, which lets children print, paint and make everything they need for a 3D paper world filled with houses, trees, cars, animals and even paper people.

Returning to romance, this is also the theme for Cyberspace Thirty, which calls for plenty of poetic licence not to mention a love of the absurd. The star prize is a Polaroid PDC-2000

The Polaroid PDC 40 is as revolutionary as it looks. It can store up to 40 exceptional 24-bit quality shots at a time before it

needs downloading, or work teth-

ered to a computer for unlimited

use. The PDC 40 has fully automatic exposure and focusing as well as a built-in flash. The camera works with either Mac or IBM-compatible PC and comes with appropriate software to get you started. Three runners-up will win Polar-

oid 636 CU cameras, each worth £30. These take regular Polaroid film for instant results.

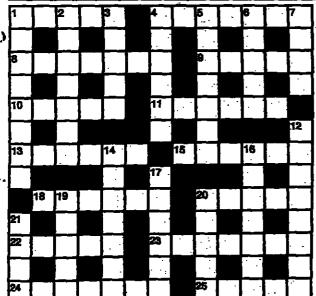
To enter, just write a short love poem dedicated to Bill Gates, supernova of the computer age. You do not have to mean it. Your odes should be fresh, inspiring, entertaining and, preferably, scan.

Send your poems, together with your name, address and home telephone number, to: Cyberspace Thirty, Computer Games and Pas-times, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN. Your entries must reach us by Tuesday, February 18. Normal Times competition rules apply and the judges will not enter into additional correspondence.

"Save money on cooling fans by through drinking straws placed in holes drilled around your computer. For more powerful systems, two small children or one large child may be required." Top Tip from M. Wheeler of Preston, Lancs.

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3395: A-maze-ing by The Tall'n



No 1006

DOWN

2 Polish (7)

cial vehicle (5)

7 High male voice (4)

12 Allowed to go free (8)

19 Up (eg in rigging) (5)

20 Twig broom (5)

21 Just; middling (4)

14 Shyness: spare supply (7)

16 Ideal but impractical (7)

17 Small (oft. scented) bag (6)

5 Calculate (7)

1 Serious misfortune, failure (8)

3. Have confidence in: finan-

4 NE France region, by Rhine (6)

6 Intimidate (by difficulty) (5)

32

ACROSS

Entry recording sum owed (5) Part of Greece; ideal rural country (7)

8 The Waltz King (7) 9 Climb up (5) 10 Be mean with; spell (of work) (5)

ii Annual dog show (6) 13 Strongly encourage (6) 15 Insipid: dry (6) 18 Sick feeling (6)

20 Damaged: penniless (5) 22 (Illicit) love affair (5) 23 The boss (slang) (5.4)

24 Be forced back (7) 25 Excavated; seeded with SOLUTION TO NO 1005

ACROSS: 1 Divided 5 Prig 9 Atlas 10 Dragoon II Rabble-rouser 12 Cloudy 13 Frolic 16 Matter-of-fact 19 Bouncer 20 Opera 21 Dyke 22 Eternal OOWN: 1 Drab 2 Volcano 3 Disobedience 4 Dudley 6 Roots
7 Generic 8 Labour of love 12 Camp bed 14 Lectern 15 Soirée

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THE GRID is a partially-constructed maze, with bars representing locked doors which open in either direction. First complete the maze by putting in answers in pencil, adding bars at the end of words in the normal way. Its 180 degrees symmetry will help in the completion of the maze. Clues to thematic lights have no definition part. All other answers are in Chambers 1993, including two abbreviations. Once the maze is complete, find the path from the entrance [top

left to the centre and gain entry to it. You can move freely along a row in either direction, except where a door (vertical bar) prevents this; but you can only go from one row to another through a door (horizontal bar). The locked doors can only be opened if there is a they in the entrance square: pick up the key, leaving the square blank, open the door, pass through and add the key to the square on the other side, for it will not be needed again. Beware of "trapdoors", where a key is available, but which lead to a dead end. Having entered the centre of the maze, retrace your steps by following a famous story-line, using the blank squares as a guide:

then ink in the final form of the maze (including all the symmetrical bars discovered earlier) and indicate the storyline. Numbers need not be added. ACROSS.

Little boy, after being followed, is given a nap Police to enter Chinese castle on tour abroad 5 & 12a Weight of arriving African ruler See 5a Blushing - not unknown in front of one's windows Direct a course about some stunted recoiling plant Heartless trickster becomes more intimate with the old Meadow-grass by a river
Fuel once allowed to escape from a little hole Barking is indeed place for retirement Pulses racing in shoulders

Pepper French lawyer with appeals at the outset Country formed at the end of Second World War Bird that is following Highland lad Heroin in the centre A word of familiar address is accepted by king in French language The old women bow Leave without opening the wooden coffer Being alert. Bob stops vehicle running back Dutch have old ears in Spring Start of trouble after ily found in house wine

54 & 13d Empty shoe 33 35:

Lassie held by one arm is Daphne Lichen is rich in oil, not iodine Hero getting out of hole developed scar tissue from injury See 18d Return of cuckoo implying severe problem
Tries to comprehend direction in which bodies travel
Alter tiny branch? Yes, make wholesale changes lan's taste in fish Our foreign relative contracts disease Former name of Betty on Coronation Street See the sights of Scottish valley, avoiding the Loch Entertain, for instance members of Lily's family One takes millions for Crown Nothing in marshy area is watered Pass up collection of animals Every third form cad took back row

Scottish supplement (take it for a prank)

See 54a
Bed of rock containing European, not American railroad line Islander makes Id - an old penny Stander tractes in - are not penny
Add colour to evergeen glades
Yanks get away from cops to meet a priest
Sloth of one taking car without needing to
Circus performer, defying gravity, causes squeal of
fright The warden's field is covered by tarpaulins

Always right after the night before in Dundee, little cakes are not even producing distinctive flavours

Standard government control

European lady has turned up in the same place before Things said by captain after revolution Prince popular in tropical season The French horn is audible in ravine Unaccompanied part-song gives joy Wonderful on Lady Day American carnivore has not a single hair This gadget has no key ...
...and alters the level of proficiency attained

E I G R O U P W I T H A N NONETSEINEEME AMEEROVERNW RETARDPHEROIC EDENCREERKNAR GUE INETISRI ORLADSESHEC 7 E R A S E A C E R T W E E BONINGUCARRAT DDICTALOTOALB 10 LEAELIANANIMA UOCRENREVAT-T

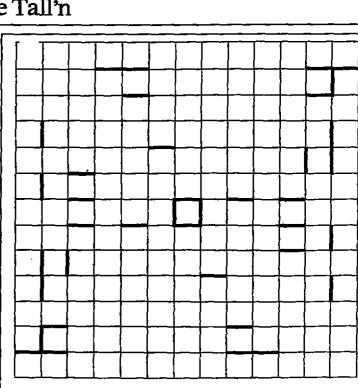
Solution to No 3392: Boundary by Apex Boundary - Group with a new cricket bat - Taverner could be after one! Column B - Invertebrata (I+BAT TAVERNER anag.) Notes to clues

ACROSS I nomet (rev); se-i-n-c; eme(u). 2 ob-a (rev); r-over. 3 retardiy); he-ro-i-c. 4 Eden (anag); cree(p); knar (rev), 5 icgu (hidden, rev); e-in-e; Tisri (hidden), 6 a-L-mug; l-l'm-is t-ask. 7 eras (hidden); ace-r; t-w-ee. 8 bon-in-g; ca-rr-at 9 i-c-talte); alb (hidden). 10 lea(d); Elian (anag);

DOWN COLUMNS I be-dell; rode-o. 2 gnat (rev): egomaniac; (a-co-game-in (anag). 3 reman (rev)urus (hidden); ice-r. 4 tercel-gentle (1-Len Reg elect (anag), 5 (a b)used: rial (rev), 6 perpendicular (perpend-a-(g))ri (anag) around cu. 7 Esme (hidden): come, 9 team (next bi-come, 9 team). Esme (hidden); come. 9 te+er (rev); ki-s-t; trona (anag). 10 heronshaw; (when ro has (anag). 11 anm (anag) +i+A; re-scal.

The winner is Roger Robinson of Essex.

The five runners-up are J.Gibb of Twickenham: M.Grimwood Taylor of Ashbourne, Derbyshire, D.Shenton of Ross and Cromarty, H.Hodges of Devizes, Wiltshire; T.Phillips of Worcester.



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I've worked for The Executive Club for 11 years. i ve made 1000's of friends nearly all of whom are now

One of our 21 staff, I am offent advisor. My job is to make friends with clients effected to me, assist them to select people to meet and guide them throughout their memberahip, until such time as they find someone very

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Hotal Patentoro' (150)

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assure you that if you're mos enough to join Us, we nearly always find you tomeone special. Love, Linda P.S. Regards to all our ex members.

Car fun on the ground for the high-flying drivers Page 3



Expensive chapter closes on a once great name

INTO MUSICI



Page 10

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1 1997

We shall have music wherever we go . . . Kevin Eason looks at in-car entertainment from Mrs Duveen to NXT

TRAISFORMS MILES

And you no longer need that tree to plug into





Switched on to the first Philips car radio in 1934

1914: Student Alan Thomas equipped a Model T Ford, stationary and earthed, with overhead aerials in Toronto. 1927: Philadelphia Storage Battery Co - Philoo launched the first commercial set for cars in the United States. 1933: The first popular car radio in Britain was the six-valve HMV Super-set, priced at 17 guineas — £17.73p today.

1934: The first British car available with factory-installed

radio was the Hillman Melody Minx — which came complete

and his band to sit in the back seat of your car than to switch on the radio. Once the car had been invented, people soon discovered that conversation had a limited life on a journey of any length. With the arrival of broadcasting, the obvious solution was to fit a radio into the car. Obvious. yes. Easy, very

with a harp mascot on the bonnet.

here was a time when

it would have been easier to hire Geraldo

definitely not, as the pioneers Not only was the equipment bulky - with valves, head-phones, Bakelite switches and speakers as big a fridge - but it was invariably unreliable Chances of hearing the plummy tones of the BBC crackling into life were as great as West Ham winning the Premier League. Yet today, you can

forget Geraldo and have everything from the London Symphony Orchestra to the tiles blasting from speakers as thin as a piece of paper, all controlled from a push-button box of tricks that will fit into your pocket.

The beginnings of what we now call "in-car entertain-ment" can be traced back to 1914 when student Alan Thomas fitted his Model T Ford with a complex of huge overhead aerials. The first drawback, though, was that the car had to stand still - and it had to be earthed. Not exactly music on the move.

Eight years on, Britain edged into the wireless age when a two-valve Burndept set was installed in a new Cadillac

Duveen Unfortunately, Mrs Duveen's chanffeur had to sling a 50ft aerial between the car roof and a tree to pick up the whiskery sounds emanating from the BBC.

It was another decade before radios were considered standard equipment. Hillman fitted a car with the six-valve HMV Super-set in 1934 and proudly-called it the Melody These days, radios think for

themselves, the latest genera-tion RDS versions tuning automatically, while compact discs have transformed the quality of sound inside the car. And British scientists have overcome the last obstacle to

the bulk which still weighs need a nearby tree.

coupé for Mrs Geoffrey down cars fitted with the latest The Cavalier cost £11,000; the hi-tech sound system is a £15,000 extra

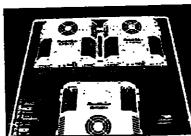


As entertainment on the move became a selling point for manufacturers. Philips produced the in-car record player and Delco made the first radio that the driver could remove

sound systems — the speakers. New Transducers Technology. or NXT, developed by the FROM the outside, the L-regis-Verity Group in Cambridgetered Vauxhall Cavalier is the sort shire, means that speakers can that sales reps use to cover thousands of miles. Inside, however, is a concert hall be flat or curved. A conventional 5ins diameter speaker with sound so dramatic, you could close cone is 3ins deep and weighs your eyes and be sitting in the circle.

about a kilogramme - and writes Vaughan Freeman. posh cars have as many as ten-verity's NXT version would be That sound quality costs £15,000 (the entire car only cost £11,000). But Russell about an eighth of an inch thick and weigh 50 grammes. Morgan, an information technology specialist, believes it was worth the And NXT can be fitted anyinvestment like hundreds of others who where - roof lining, sun visor spend fortunes on sound systems so because it radiates instead elaborate, most homes don't have of beaming sound like convenanything like them. His Cavalier's tional speakers. Carmakers sound system won the Amateur Natare lining up to buy the new ional Final organised by the Sound

Challenge Association. The sounds of the future, it Two large speakers were built into the seems, will be bigger and driver and passenger side footwells etter than ever — and, unlike while the boot is filled with a 15in Mrs Duveen, you won't even



Hidden: three amplifiers in the boot

diameter "sub-woofer" for rich bass. The disc changer is tucked into the glove box, but the boot is the powerhouse. The main amplifier and heavy-duty back-up battery are set in hand-made cavities lined with thin blue neon light tubes to show them off. At the touch of a

television-style remote control, a tray drops down from beneath the rear shelf on hydraulic pistons, to show off two more amplifiers.

The sound is spectacular, but not the ear-shattering type which blasts from cars in every high street. Instead, it is high quality, the challenge which intrigues Morgan and Chris and Peter Huet, who run Huet Car Audio in Hove, West Sussex and installed the system.

"It's not about volume." Chris says. "You don't have to spend an awful lot of money to get a nice sound system in your car. It is extraordinary how someone might spend £40,000 on their car and £5,000 on their home hi-fi system, but then put up with the sound system in their car installed by the manufacturer — probably the last thing that carmakers think about."

LABOUR'S TRAFFIC POLICY: PAGE 5

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Tempo



The issues have been forgotten. Perfectly decent people only want to go to St Ives and would like to avoid sweating on the A30 for three hours

Methinks they do protest too much

hey give themselves names like Swampy and Animal and have come down out of the trees to live in tunnels. They admit, some of them, to living on unemployment benefit, to qualify for which they have to be available for work". But, of course, they aiready have work, for they are roads protesters, a label they wear as if to imply that protesting against roads is a vocation all its own.

They have some of the attributes of heroes. They are, undeniably, self-sacrificing. They have belief and endurance. They are, in their way, as determined and dedicated as a Ranulph Fiennes or a Tony Bullimore. But those fine men took on Nature: Swampy and Animal have taken on democracy. Nature is neither enhanced nor dimin-

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



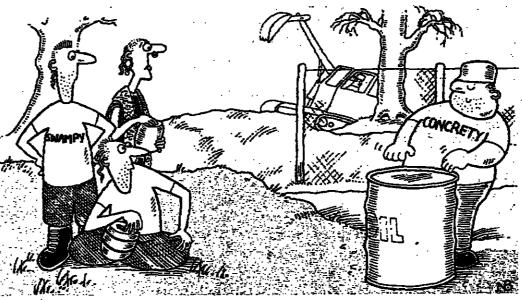
Peter Barnard

a Fiennes or a Bullimore. Democ racy can only be diminished if it loses out to Swampy and Animal. The media images from Devon tempt us to side with the protesters. Men in hard hats wield sophisticated machines like the

Pipehawk, designed to trace the

course of underground tunnels. Zealous, sometimes over-zealous, security men gaze rigidly at those who taunt them. Swathes of countryside are flattened as if by napalm in the service of the great

god Motoring.
Size, though, is not everything.
The little fellah is not right because the other tellah is a bigger fellah. One of the distinguishing marks of the A30 protest is that the issues have been forgotten. Every day the reports are about the confrontation, but that is not the issue. The issue is a road - and not much of a road, at that. Most people living in London or elsewhere in the southeast of England, having decided to take a holiday in Devon or Cornwall, will look at a map and decide that, while the M4-M5 route may be quicker, the A3-A303-A30 is



205 miles by motorway and 182 miles via the A30. And look at all that dual carriageway! Great thinking, until you reach Honiton. The 10 miles or so from there to Exeter is the one serious bottleneck

left on the entire trek. All that the Highways Agency is trying to do is turn that single

carriageway. The normal rule that all roads quickly fill to their capacity - does not apply. There is no demonstrable case for arguing that the Honiton-Exeter dual carriageway will simply fill up with traffic. Most of the case against the present road is not the density of traffic but the fact that overtaking

is nearly impossible, thus reducing

traffic flow to the speed of the slowest vehicle. Ergo, two lanes will solve the problem.

Neither does the expansion of the A30 involve knocking down vast numbers of houses or rendering homeless the last six examples on the planet of the lesser spotted greenfly. But Swampy and Animal are not interested. They are not

opposed to the A30 improvement as such. What they oppose is the building of any road, anywhere,

for any reason.
I have worried about Swampy and Animal all week. Unless you are a tunneler, digging a tunnel is a dangerous game and living in one is even more dangerous. expect that Swampy and Animal and all their fellow protesters are perfectly decent young people who only want what they believe in. But they are a minority. There are plenty of perfectly decent people who only want to spend a week in St Ives this summer and would like to get there without sweating on the A30 for three hours.

The difference between these groups is not that one likes cars and the other does not. The difference is that one group, if it does not like the way the Government runs its roads policy, will do something about that at the General Election. The other group will do something about it whenever and wherever it chooses and to hell with the rest of us. I think I know which group I'm in.

AT LAST, the Ford Ka has a name that makes sense. All will be revealed next Saturday, along with the winner of Name That Ka.

A lifeline for Merseyside?

Kevin Eason on the small people-carrier that could give Halewood a big future

This is the car that could save Ford's plant on Merseyside. The small people-carrier — which would compete with the Renault Megane Scenic. Europe's Car of the Year is yet to be unveiled by Ford, but the company wants to put it into production at Halewood within the next two years.

Ford rocked workers when it disclosed it would end production of the Escort at Halewood with the loss of 1,300 jobs. But the worldwide move towards making cars for niche markets could save Halewood. If the workforce accepts the changes and the Government is prepared to offer a grant of around £70m to switch assembly lines, the plant could gain the people-

Unions have doubts about Ford's commitment, but the company says that Halewood could make 120,000 people-carriers a year, not far below the annual rate of Escort production which dropped to 153,000 last year.

for Halewood, the benefit is that the new vehicle is likely to be manpower-intensive and much more profitable. Ford envisages a hatchback. based on the chassis of the Escort but capable of taking seven seats with a tall roof for extra luggage room, producing a Galaxy-style vehicle but in a hatchback size. Engines would probably be 1.8 and 2litre versions from the present range — and made in Britain.
If unions have reservations

about Ford's strategy, they should take heart from the company's Valencia plant. where workers are both colleagues and competitors for Halewood. Valencia will be one of two continental plants to make the Escort, along with Saarlouis in Germany, but the Spanish workers had to bear losing production of the Fiesta to Dagenham. Ford's huge plant in Essex. Their reward was the contract for the Ka.

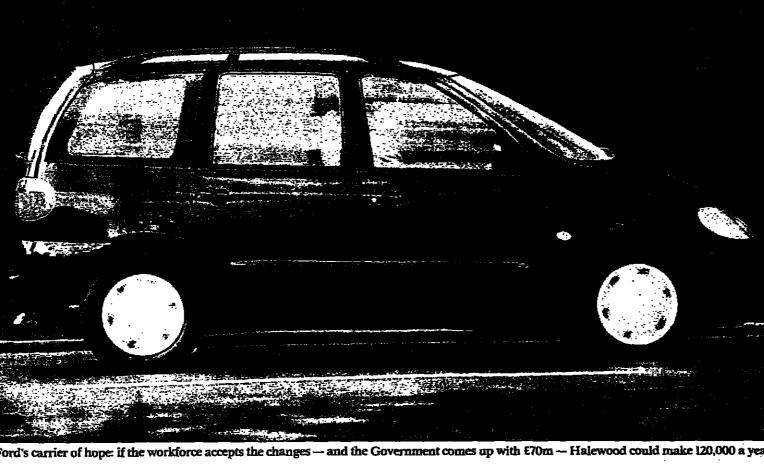
Valencia has built four million Fiestas since 1976, which should have worried the Spanish workers when Ford decided to concentrate production at Dagenham, ignoring them. But Ford pumped more than £120 million into Valancia to prepare it for Ka production. What Valencia had that Halewood does not was advanced preparations for a supplier park - an industrial site which contains the companies supplying all its major compo-

AUTOFAX by Les Evans and David Long

HO SAID IT WOODEN GO? AMERICAN

JERRY NICKEL'S MAHOGANY-BODIED

CAR HAS TWIN 8.2 LYTRE YE ENGINES AND MORE



Ford's carrier of hope: if the workforce accepts the changes - and the Government comes up with £70m - Halewood could make 120,000 a year



Escort production at Liverpool: the days when it dominated the British market are gone

nents. Linking the supplier park with the factory are three ors. Under computer control. they feed sub-assemblies such as instrument consoles, seats and reur axles - from the contractor to the production line, delivering them seconds before they are needed. For example, seats arrive and are taken from the conveyors, the longest of which carries components for a kilometre a 15-minute journey.

Juan Jose Ubaghs, Valencia's plant director, explains: "Of the 1,200 parts which constitute each Ka. 436 in six sub-assemblies are brought into the plant by direct auto-matic delivery. With the advent of more suppliers, those figures will increase to about 12 sub-assemblies. A supplier simply produces a sub-assembly, hangs it on the conveyor and forgets about it. We know it will arrive where and when we want it. This level of total automation ensures there is no requirement for packaging. leading or unloading from trucks and no necessity for storage of components on the

alewood has lost its job making the Escort because the car is no longer as popular as it was and because it could not close the efficiency gap on Saarlouis and Valencia. The days have gone when the Escort MkIII dominated the British car market, heading the sales charts for a decade as an automatic first choice for both company and

ACTIONSH THER NAMES CONSING

TO MAKE ONE OF THE

ZEATS, MESSES. DAINILER AND BONZ NEVER

private buyers. Now competition for that segment of the market is intense in Europe with rivals from Peugeot, Citroën, Vauxhall, Honda and soon Toyota and Nissan making cars in the UK.

Halewood remains isolated from the Ford empire on Merseyside in the far northwest of England and far from the great carmaking centres of the West Midlands and the South-East. But the workforce is enthusiastic and the tradition is deep: the introduction of the people-carrier could turn Halewood into an important part of Ford's organisation. providing a vehicle made no where else in Europe but still vital to Ford's attempt to win Additional reporting

by Stuart Birch.

Ayerica's 1950's fin-fad REACHED ITS PEAK WITH HUE CAPILLAGE FLEETLINGD

HOW MUCH TO REPAIR IT?

You pay less for an Italian fix

FIAT makes the cheapest cars to repair, while bills for Japanese models are among the highest, according to a survey by one of Britain's top accident management companies, writes Kevin

Velo, based in Marlow, Buckinghamshire, checked on the price of repairs from more than 50,000 company vehicles to compile its

league table. The Italians lead, with average costs below even the

CAR REPAIR COSTS Fiet £360 Peugeot £414 Ford £447 Vauxhall £471 Mercedes £526 Renault £564 Volkswagen ... £580£645 Audi ... 2665 2700 Velo Fleet insurance Report

established Big Three in Britain - Ford, Yauxhall and Rover - who were in fourth, fifth and sixth positions, with Land Rover a surprising second. Mercedes, expected to be expensive, is in among the mass manufacturers and well in front of its rivals, Audi, BMW and Volkswagen.

Depite having European manufacturing sites, the Japanese fail the crash test. Nissan performed best, though still six places behind the Big Three and more expensive than Merce des, while Honda and Toyota. both manufacturing in Britain, and Mazda whose 121 model is from Ford's plant at Dagenham. Essex — prop up the table.

Velo is expert at identifying costs because fleet drivers have the worst record for accidents. Accidents in which the driver was at fault, it says, rose by 2.6 per cent last year, while there was a similar increase in cases in which the driver hit a stationary object, suggest ing carelessness.

The company calculates that the average cost per claim for accidents in which no third party was involved last year was £1,720.



LONDON M4 Major roadworks be-tween junctions 1 (Chlsw tween junctions 1 (Chlswick) and 2 (Brentford), Includes work on the elevated section and the entry and exit slip roads. Also closures on the A4 A306 Hammersmith Bridge. Closed both ways to general traffic for structural works. Expect congestion on ooth sides of the river. A3 Kingston. Northbound lane closure on the Kingston bypass between Shannon Comer (A298) and Coombe Lane junction (A238). M1 Hendon area, Major

roadworks at Five Ways Corner, with no access to or from the A1 Great North Way. A406 Upper Edmonton. Major roadworks on Angel over Lea Valley Viaduct. ● SOUTH-EAST M40 Buckinghamshire. Roadworks with a contration between junctions 1a (M25) and 2 (Beaconstield). M27 Hampshire. Road-works with lane closures and a contraflow at times between junctions 8 (Southamp-

ton) and 10 (Fareham). M2 Kent. Inside lane and hard shoulder closed both ways between junctions 5 (Sittingbourne) and 6 (Faversham). M25 Dartford, Kent. Maintebital viaduct means southbound lane closure throughout the day with various off peak and overnight A3 near Guildford, Surrey. Hogs Back (A31) long-term roadworks at Stag Hill

SOUTH-WEST A35 Christchurch bypass, Dotset. Lane closure between Fountain Way and Stony Lane roundabout. M5 Gloucestershire. Major roadworks with only one lane open at roundabout junction with the A419.
M5 Gloucestershire.
Contraftow across Avonmouth bridge with a 50mph limit. A303 Andover, Hampshire. Off-peak lane closures and full overnight closures between the A3057 and the A343.

● MIDLANDS & EAST ANGLIA A1 Alconbury, Cambridge-shire. Reduced to one lane northbound during mainte nance work at Alconbury Hills (A14/A604), as is the A14. A38 south of Derby. Southem bypass (A564 under construction), roadworks are in place. A6 Leicestershire. Roadworks and a contraflow between Sawley Island and

tween Talke (A34) and Longoort (A527 Porthill): M5 West Midlands, Major roadworks at junction 2 Dudley (A4034/A4123 Oldbury),

closing southbound entry and northbound exit slip roads. A1M Durham, Roadworks with a 50mph limit at junction

M6 Greater Mancheste Bridge maintenance work be-tween junctions 25 (Wigan) and 27 (Standish) with a 50mph limit and narrow lanes in both directions. M53 Merseyside. Bridge 2 (Birkenhead) with only one lane open each way on the Moreton spur. A697 south of Wooler Northumberland, Closed at Crawley Dean for road-

works. Signed diversions via Glanton. M1 South Yorkshire. Carriageway reduced to two lanes in both directions be-

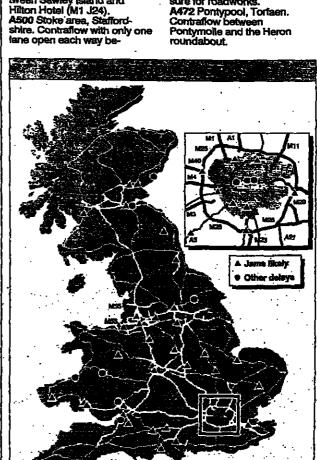
tween Meadowheil and Rotherham. A 50mph limit is also in place. M1 West Yorkshire. Major roadworks continue around the Leeds junction with lane closures and speed restrictions. Expect delays on the M1, M621 and Dews-bury Road.

● SCOTLAND A937 Montrose, Angus Roadworks and restrictions in both directions on Hillside. M8 Edinburgh. Major roadworks, with lane closures on the roundabout at junction 2 (Newbridge spur, M9). A90 between Errol and St Madoes, Perth & Kinross. Carriageway reduced to one lane westbound for roadworks, inside lane closed.
Off-peak 9,30am-3,30pm.
A77 Symington, South Ayrshire, Southbound lane clo-

sure for roadworks, just north of the Bogend Toll. WALES A482 Aberaeron Ceredigion. Upper Aberaeron Bridge on South Road closed for reconstruction work. Diversions via Panteg Road and the A487. A4076 Milford Haven. Pembrokeshire. Bridge repairs at Dinas Bridge.

A44 between Llangung and
Eisteddfa Gurig, Powys. Roadworks near Glansevern

A458 Pont Sychcoed, Cytronydd, Powys. Temporary lights for bridge repairs, also affecting the A483. A483 between Cadle and Penllergaer, Swansee. Off-peak northbound lane do-A472 Pontypool, Torfaen.
Contraflow between
Pontymoile and the Heron
roundabout.



EBRUARY 1 1997



Mark Jefferies demonstrates his bike's aerodynamic qualities, watched by Clive Davidson with his "warm and reliable" 12-year-old Polo

HISTORY has seen the fortunes of the aircraft and motor business intertwined at almost every stage, writes Kevin Eason. The men who pioneered the car inevitably turned their engineering prowess to the air as soon as they saw that the Wright Brothers were more visionary than harebrained.

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BOTCHOMS

The high points were very high: such as when the carmakers turned their efforts to aero manufacture during the Second World

COMBINATIONS OF WHEELS AND WINGS

War. Fighters and bombers thundered from their factories in the Midlands. One of the greatest contributions came from Rolls-Royce, which made the famous Merlin engine to power the Spitfire, probably Britain's most recognisable war weapon. Postwar, Bristol started making cars while British Aerospace bought

But there have been lows: the first Briton killed in an air crash was C.S. Rolls, playboy, pioneer aviator and co-founder of Rolls-Royce, who died in 1910 and never saw his name become one

Then there have been the attempts to combine flying and drive/flight driving, like the hapless 1973 of again.

Aircar, a combination of Ford Pinto and Cessna Skymaster. Now, if you were choosing the ideal donor car, the Pinto would not be the first to spring to mind. Nevertheless, the project went ahead with an elaborate arrangement to attach the Cessna wings and stabilizers to the "fuselage" of the Pinto. Unfortunately, the only way for this project was down: the car/plane broke up on its first drive/flight and was never heard

Down-to-earth transport for grounded flyers

Eve-Ann Prentice discovers that some pilots abandon all ideas of glamorous travel when they leave their planes



Indith Wilson and Steve Jones and their Fords: "I look after mine and it is reliable \dots his is not

hen Jumbo jet co-pilot Judith Wilson leaves from Tokyo, she makes for the crew car park at Heathrow ready to drive home. The car park may have pristine, glearning supercars of the sort most airline passengers would deem fit for heroes of the air, but Judith passes them by as she makes for her ageing Ford Fiesta XR2i.

Meanwhile another flying ace Mark Jefferies, has just screamed earthwards in his aerobatic Yak fighter aircraft while taking part in a death-defying display in the old Battle of Britain skies over East Anglia. After landing back at his farm airstrip at Little Gransden on the Cambridgeshire-Bedfordshire border, he leaps not into a zippy Porsche or Ferrari, but on to a

battered, rusty green bicycle.
So what do pilots — accustomed to mastering the most powerful and sophisticated machinery on earth -- look for in a car? For many it is not the image-enhancing upmarket vehicles of the glossy ads. The spectre of a groomed, gold-braided

icket and a manicured, capable hand on the steering wheel of a topof the range saloon is not for them. More likely, the pilot's car may be strewn with overflowing ash-

trays, tools and old newspapers.
"My car is used as a travelling workshop," says Judith, whose husband, Steve Jones, is also a British Airways Boeing 747-400 copilot. "Steve has a Sukhoi aircraft which he enters in events and we have to take lots of equipment

"I know the XR2i has a boy-racer, joy rider type image, but it is small bicycle in the back."

Steve, meanwhile, runs a Ford

Escort XR3i which he says is "somewhere between a sitting room and a toolbox. It has four seats all full of aeroplane bits, I could never carry passengers in it". The car is practical, he says. "It fulfils all its requirements, it is not something a burglar would want". A sentiment Judith would agree with: "Mine is worth about £2,000. I don't think his even registers on any value scale. I look after mine and it is reliable ... his is not."

Steve does sometimes hanker after a Ferrari, "but I wouldn't be able to get all the tools in it", or "something nice and genteel like a 1920s three-litte Bentley".

Judith, who met Steve when they were training 10 years ago, has no such dreams ... she is simply stumped about how she could eventually replace her Ford. Her XR2i does about 38mpg and the Boeing 747-400 uses 8-10 tons of fuel an hour, so comparison between work and recreation vehicles is not so feasible.

Mark Jefferies, former British aerobatic champion and importer of Yak fighters from the former Soviet bloc, has been reduced to riding his rust-riddled bike since his C-reg Orion Ghia was written off after being stolen just before Christmas. But my favourite transport is my Yak 50; it is simple, easy to fly, and has tremendous performance," he says. Yaks also cost between £40,000 and £170,000.

Clive Davidson, chief flying instructor at Shoreham airfield, loves getting behind the controls of Harvard and Yak aircraft and likes taking his terrestrial transport for granted. After a day teaching the next generation of pilots the intricacies of stall turns and side-slipping, Clive climbs into a 12-year-old Volkswagen Polo 1.3 with 273,000

bought it for about £1,200 eight years ago and it is insured for £1.500, though I doubt I would get that for he says. "All I want from a car is for it to be warm and reliable. I get

my kicks travelling in the air."
None the less, his appetite has been whetted by driving in Florida, where he is currently teaching at a flying school. "I have been lent a five-litre Mustang soft-top and it has been offered to me to buy. But it only does 15mpg, which is fine out there with America's low fuel costs,

Back at Heathrow, Judith Wilson remembers the travel disaster which has most unnerved her.

It was not some mid-air crisis over Kamchatka in the remote Far East, or a particularly tricky cross wind landing at Hong Kong, but the sinking moment that is familiar to millions of earthbound mortals - the time she realised her car had

"Steve was taking part in an air race and his aeroplane keys had been in the car" she said. "They had to hotwire the aircraft to get it going and that was among my worst moments."

'The Grand Cherokee has become a symbol of success'

The fight is on as the Laredo rides into town, says Helen Mound

ust when you thought there couldn't possibly be any more new off-roaders destined for British roads, Jeep has come up with a real gem which will unnerve Mitsubishi Shogun and Land Rover Discovery dealers; its

cheapest luxury 4x4 ever. Named after the Texan town, the new Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo is every bit as stylish as a Shogun, as accomplished as a Discovery - and at least £5,000 cheaper than either.

The Laredo comes in response to Ford's assault last year on Jeep's monopoly of American 4x4 sales in the UK. Since arriving in Britain three years ago, Jeep has been enjoying a staggering growth in sales and Ford decided it wanted a share. Ford introduced the £25,870 Explorer, so Jeep was swift to launch the 126,495 Laredo, which goes on

sale this week. The Laredo has two advantages over its rival; first, it's available in four-litre petrol with an automatic gearbox and permanent four-wheel drive, or 25-litre turbo diesel with manual gears and swit-chable four-wheel drive (the Explorer is a four-litre petrol only off-roader). And it is European-built (the Explorer an average of 58.4mpg.

is made in the US), which means styling and trim are

Rover in the 1980s.

nearer British tastes. The Grand Cherokee range amounts to four models, the 4.0 and 5.2 Limited, and the two Laredos. Apart from the availability of the turbo diesel engine, the Laredos and Limiteds are mechanically identical. The major difference is what Jeep refers to as a "subtle realignment" of specification - so subtle, you can't help wondering why anyone would bother paying the £3,000 extra for a 4.0 Limited

instead of a 4.0 Laredo. The petrol and turbo diesel Laredos benefit from luxuries such as air-conditioning, electric windows, power steering, cruise control and alloy wheels. Safety features include twin front airbags, anti-lock brakes, remote central lock-

ing, immobiliser and alarm.
The turbo diesel Laredo is likely to be the more popular of the two, not only because it is Jeep's only diesel Grand Cherokee, but because of its impressive fuel economy. Last year a Grand fitted with the turbo diesel engine covered 900 miles from the engine plant in Italy to London on less than a tank of fuel, achieving



Laredo: Jeep's prediction of selling 1,000 in 1997 seems somewhat reserved

When Jeep introduced the Grand Cherokee in March last year, it hoped to sell 3,000 by December, that figure was achieved in October. To date, orders have reached 5,000 and the Grand has become the UK's-best selling petrol-en-gined 4x4. With results like that, Jeep's prediction to sell 1,000 Laredos in 1997 seems somewhat reserved, but the company says the figure has more to do with a limited supply than demand. Such is

the Grand Cherokee's popularity in Europe that a third production shift has been scheduled at the assembly

plant in Graz, Austria. The Grand has a pleasing mix between tall off-roader and car-like dimensions, it stands out from the crowd without being too big for busy cities. It cruises comfortably, although the diesel can get rather noisy if pushed much above 70mph.

If you're brave enough to

CHEROKEE LAREDO

Engine: 2499cc four-cylinder turbo diesel; 3960cc six-cylinder petrol. Transmission: Five-speed manual and part-time 4WD; four-speed automatic and permanent 4WD. Performance: Max speed, 97mph/ 112mph; 0-60mph, 13.9 secs/9.9 secs.



Explorer: leading Ford's British attack

take your cherished Grand offing huge boulders and logs road, you'll be impressed by with impressive poise, and not a single creak or rattle from its refinement and sheer muscle. Driving the new Laredo the interior trim displayed around a purpose-built off-road circuit in Scotland rehow capable and well-built these off-roaders are. vealed why the Jeep was chosen as Off Road and Four-Wheel Drive magazine's "4x4 of the Year", and also named

In less than a year, the Grand Cherokee has become a symbol of success amd Jeep claims an imposing customer profile; between 31 and 55 with one or two children, he - 88 per cent of buyers are male - has a degree and is likely to be a

company owner or director.

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As it happens, you've struck lucky. Next week CAR 97 announces the chance for readers to take their vehicles off-road on one of the best, specially-designed courses anywhere. There will be the chance to win free places driving and riding in Land Rover Defenders and Discoverys which will be the demonstration vehicles. So order your copy or make sure you are at the paper shop in plenty

Aw, I never win those things. Come on doc. there must be another way. She is giving me so much

A Don't be down-hearted. We will have lots of

places to win. Even if you don't, the course will be open to ordinary members of the public who want to try their

hand at driving off-road in

their own vehicles. And next thing, she turns up with my nice Land Rover Discovery minus several body panels. Are you absolutely sure about this off-

road stuff? Great news. There will be experts to ensure she gets round safely and doesn't dig your precious pride and joy in 100 deep into a field of goo. Anyway, why wait anxiously at home to discover whether your Discovery is bent or not? Get yourself there for a fantastic day's activity and do some driving as well.

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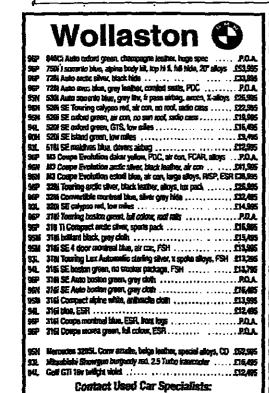
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BASE IN PART TWO DEBUTE TRANSPORT DEBATE

The issue is not a problem of car ownership, but the deficiency of efficient alternatives'

ecording to CBI estimates, congestion costs business and the economy about L £19 billion a year — that's £800 a household. It is not only the financial costs of congestion, but also the frustration of time wasted and opportunities foregone, as you sit trapped by tailback after tailback, day after day, that makes this mounting congestion all the more intolerable

Seventeen years of Tory govern-ment have left Britain's transport system in chaos and disrepair. Roads have been left to crumble to crisis point, while the Government chops and changes the roads pro-gramme, promising improvements and then cutting them back. Motorists are left to suffer delay after delay, never knowing when the next emergency roadworks or diversion will pop up.

The facts are clear - if traffic growth continues on current' trends, within eight years we face near-gridlocked roads into our major cities for most of the day, most days of the year. Labour is determined to tackle this spiralling congestion, making better use of all

Labour will open real choice in

transport. It should not always be a case of going by car or not going at all. Rather, the public transport alternatives should be accessible, reliable and convenient for journeys appropriate to them. More of the car journeys we make should be pleasant and efficient, with less time stuck in the jams that so many

of us suffer so often. The issue of traffic growth is not a problem of car ownership, but rather of excessive dependency on car use and the deficiency of alternatives — a great deal of it down to Government neglect of rail, bus and the public transport infrastructure. The solution must be to extend real choice as to when to use the car and when not to. In a number of other European countries, the level of car ownership is higher than in Britain, but the level of car use is lower.

Most people stuck in traffic jams are not sitting there immobile, polluting and wasting their perrol out of choice, but because they do not have, or are not aware of, sufficiently attractive or convenient alternatives — and because it's nor easy or secure enough to switch from car to rail or bus when you need to. Tory failure to set in place a

By Andrew Smith, Shadow Secretary of State for Transport



coherent, integrated transport system with facilities for such interchanges has contributed to the chaos we all face.

To tackle mounting congestion, we have to encourage the provision of those alternatives, as well as managing our existing road space better. Where high traffic volumes are unavoidable, we must utilise public-private partnership to the full to deploy advanced manage-

Andrew Smith's reply to last week's government claims: "They have neglected public transport"

Labour will work in partnership with the automotive industry, motoring organisations and other interested parties to develop and deploy telematics and on-board

Before too long, many cars on the market will be fitted with the onboard audio information facility directing the journey — effectively your own A-Z and route planner

elemanic systems already in place, such as those which keep traffic moving by varying speed limits according to traffic flows, will be more extensively applied as their capability and efficiency improve. In conjunction with up-to-theminute travel information warning of accidents or hold-ups ahead, relayed via roadway displays or direct to the car, journey planning will soon become much more sophisticated and efficient. In turn, fewer of the journeys we make by car should be stressed by unexpected delay, and more of them pleasant and direct.

Indeed, these technologies have the potential to transform motoring as we know it. Labour is already examining how government can best work with and harness the energies and innovation of industry in applying these developments to

standards and integrated transport will be essential to the more flexible role of the car in the 21st century. A Labour government would work with the automotive industry, and its incredible innovative, organisa-tional and market-sensitive abilities to help provide solutions. There are big benefits for motorists, the environment - and the motor industry - from further progress on safety, fuel efficiency, emissions. traffic management and every area where we can help to keep the industry at the forefront of global

competition. in the whole debate about the car, it is time to move beyond sterile debates about pro and anti. People want the freedom and opportunity the car has brought. At the same. time they do not want limitless road-building in a vain quest to accommodate every conceivable car journey. The question then is how to manage the car and secure the best mix of car-borne mobility and other ways of travelling. Lab-our is determined to forge ahead on this in partnership with industry, and, in line with our broader transport strategy, to get Britain moving into the 21st century.

DAVID TAYLOR: THE GREEN PARTY

Turning off the road to gridlock UK

Traffic

could be

cut by 10

per cent

by 2010

Road Traffic Reduction Bill, which had its Second Reading in the House of Commons on Friday, January 24, and passed with all-party support.

It is now government policy to reduce traffic. This astonishing before Sir George Young's article appeared in last week's Car 97. It made his arguments appear more

dated than they already were. The Road Traffic Reduction Bill is considerably weaker than the original version drafted by the Green Party, Friends of the Earth and Plaid Cymru. It is no longer adequate for the scale of the

problem. It obliges councils to draw up local traffic reduction plans, to be sent to the Secretary of State for Transport for approval. Regional targets pro-vide a framework for coordination, but the original Bill also included provision for national targets and for a national plan.

These omissions leave the Government in a ridiculous This would suggest a state of position, supporting traffic reducposition, supporting traffic reduction at a local level while its national policies promote increased traffic! The Government's own statistics predict widespread gridlock within nine years.

The Green Party is calling for a national strategy for reducing traific. based on clearly identified targets. Traffic could and should be cut by 5 per cent (from 1990 levels) by 2005 and 10 per cent by 2010.

Government policies such as road building, subsidised car manufacture, rundown public trans-port, cheap fuel and out-of-town development all encourage additional traffic and need urgent action.

We also now have hire purchase" roads, DBFOs (Design Build Finance and Operate). The more the roads are used, the more the consortiums get paid. They are already lobbying for "their" road to be routed past future development sites. A central demand of the tunnelling protesters at Fairmile, which we strongly support, is that the details of these deals should be made public.

Labour also supports private investment in transport infrastructure, even though DBFOs are more expensive. Is this because the deferred expenditure will reduce the budget deficit and help Britain qualify for a single currency?

Sadly, there is little sign that Andrew Smith is any more enlightened than Sir George. The Shadow Transport Secretary lives close by the Cowley Rover works - a major employer in his constituency.
What should an incoming gov-

ernment do? The Green Party says: Restructure the Department of Transport, more aptly named the Department for Roads". Nothing less than a complete shift in DoT culture is required. A Traffic Re-

of the significance of the for policy formulation and monitoring national and local traffic reduction plans.

• Establish a National Public

Transport Agency to ensure that the new policies were implemented. It would channel funds to public transport and he responsible for e ang tah tegulahon

• Improve the connections between different modes of transport. One suggested mechanism is the establishment of integrated public transport franchises and the reregulation of buses.

• Provide funding for transport improvements. There is considerable slack in Sir George's £6 billion road-building programme. In de-

ciding which roads to build the DoT claims to use criteria based on a road's environmental impact, its ability to relieve congestion and its importance in stimulating economic activity. Yet some schemes retained in the revised roads programme received a lower priority ranking than others that have been dropped.

Studies have shown that investment in public transport creates more jobs than investment in roadbuilding. This is the way to remove

bottlenecks without destroying any more of the countryside. • End the subsidies given to car manufacturers. Nissan has to date received some £125m and BMW more than £15m for its new engine plant. Now the Government is considering caving in to Ford's strong-arm tactics at Halewood. Increase fuel tax over and above the current 5 per cent per annum commitment. This is needed to

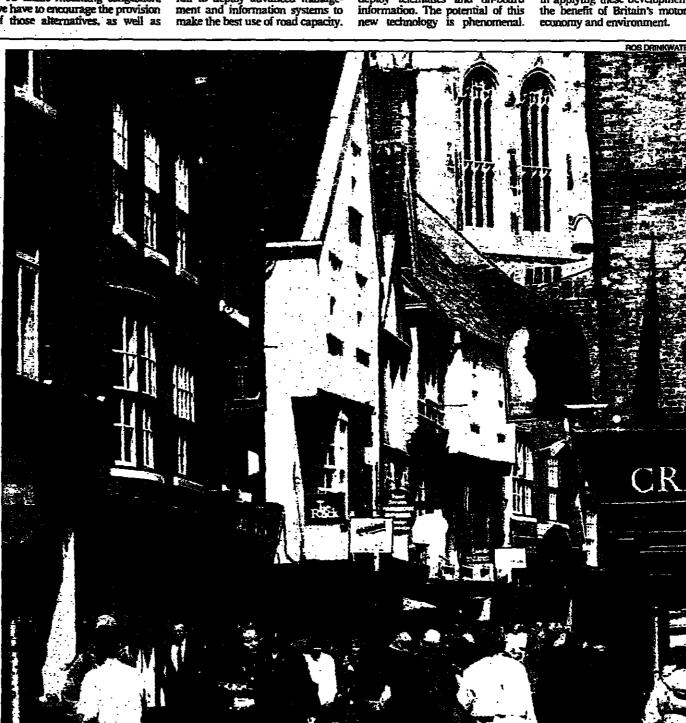
ment costs of cars and HGVs. • Introduce many of the new schemes that flow naturally from a traffic reduction policy. We need "safe routes to school", patrolled by lollipop women and men, so that parents can leave their cars in the garage and children can walk to school.

reflect the full health and environ-

What about incentives for teleworking, a tax on company car parking space, a lorry mileage tax, a car purchase tax graded according to recyclability and engine efficiency and tax breaks for green commuting, bus and rail season

Most of these ideas have been tried and tested by local authorities in Britain or in countries across Europe. We face a transport crisis. Without urgent measures, much of our road system is destined for gridlock. The "grey" policy of accommodating traffic growth through road-building has clearly failed, and at a terrible

Irs time Sir George Young and Andrew Smith climbed out of their Rovers and on to their Raleighs



York City scores against drivers

Tistoric York has been waging an unceasing war against the tide of traffic for the past ten years. Some of its methods could be adopted across Britain.

The council has pre-empted the Reduction of Traffic Bill by setting a target of holding the number of cars entering the city at 1992 levels. That requires about 5,000 drivers a day to leave their cars at home and come in by bike, public transport or on foot.

The walled medieval heart of York is already pedestrian-only between 10am and 4pm and Deansgate, the main thoroughfare running beside York Minster, has been closed to traffic since the late 1980s. One result has been a radical reduction in accidents. "Accident levels are down to about 40 per cent of the mid-1980s level in the old city." says John Rigby, the council's Director of Environment and Development Services.

Jonathan Prynn looks at an historic rearguard action to fight pollution

There are plans to create a 75-mile pedestrian network linking the city centre, residential areas, local shops and schools, local amenities such as leisure centres and the surrounding countryside. About a fifth of all residential streets in York are already traffic calmed, one of the highest levels in the country, and three parkand-ride sites using low emission

buses have been set up. The council was reorganised last April to embrace a greater area than just the old city. Before the change, the council considered radical proposals to charge drivers £1 a day to enter the city at peak hours, raising an estimated £2.7 million a year, to be invested in further transport improvement. This idea was dropped. however, partly because it was deemed it would discriminate too much against the poor and because there were fears that out-

of-town shoppers could switch their allegience to Leeds or Hull. The council plans to have 50 miles of cycleways, of which half has been built so far, aiready giving York one of the highest levels of cycle usage in Britain. At 23 per cent of journeys, compared with less than 2 per cent in the country as a whole, the city is

regarded as a model for others. The council carries out daily monitoring of emissions and informs the local radio station as soon as levels of toxic chemicals reach harmful levels so that warnings can be broadcast.

However, assessment of whethor the policies have been successful have been complicated by the presence near the city of three large power stations. These emit large quantities of fumes that can pollute the city's atmosphere in certain wind conditions.

York, like other councils in Britain, still has few powers to take action to control traffic to prevent pollution building to dangerous levels. Only one council, Leicestershire, already takes action in advance to control traffic if levels of pollution are forecast to be dangerously high.

Most urban councils now moniter roadside emissions, but police have been reluctant to spare the resources to enforce emmisions standards because of underfunding, and there have been few prosecutions.

Environmental groups said that many local authorities were still refusing to take controlling traffic seriously with Manchester Lancaster, and the Merseyside suburbs of Selton and Corby the

TREES CLEAN UP

Driving force to plant a new forest

MOTORISTS worried over the levels of pollution spilling from tailpipes can now assuage their guilt under a novel tree-planting scheme launched yesterday, writes Nick Nuttall.

The project, Future Forests, claims drivers can, by planting 10 trees a year at a cost of £30, offset their carbon emissions and thus reduce the threat of global

warming.
The idea mirrors those mooted by countries like the United States at UN summits on global warming. Washington has proposed on several occasions that America could offset its greenhouse gas emissions by massive tree-planting schemes in the developing world.

■ The scheme for the British motorist was launched at treeplanting ceremony at Thames Chase, the new community forest of east London being developed around Upminster, near the M25. Motoring organisations are praising the scheme. An RAC

spokesman says: "The science is sound. We would encourage members to participate".

Daniel Morrell of Future Forests, a group of marketing specialists, conservationists and the noted criminal barrister Gilbert Gray. said: "We are not suggesting we have the grand solution to the problem of global warming. But if the British public decide they want to tackle the nation's carbon emis-

mechanism for making it happen." The first 100 trees were planted by Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Unison, and funded by donations from union members.

sions from cars then we have a

MORRELL says they are in discussions with other community projects, the Woodlands Trust, officials at the National Forest taking shape in the Midlands and landowners, including the National Trust. He says they already have 500,000 tree sites agreed nationally with a promise of a further 500,000 soon.

Half the weight of a mature, four-ton oak, which is growing and soaking up carbon from the air for between 150 and 200 years, will be carbon. An average motor car emits four times its own weight of carbon dioxide and other pollut-

ants into the air a year. "So by planting 10 trees a year. every year you drive, you are sequestering your pollution," says

THERE are around 24 million cars in Britain, so the scale of plantings to offset their emissions would be large, running annually at about 100,000 hectares or the equivalent of 125 large farms.

But England's tree cover is just 3 per cent of its surface. Robert Mathews, a scientist at the Forestry Commission's Alice Holt research station in Farnham, says. There is plenty of scope for expanding the area of forests in Britain."

The cost of the trees, which Future Forests insist will come from native rather than imported acorns and seed, is £3. In return the motorist gets a certificate and the funds cover growing costs:

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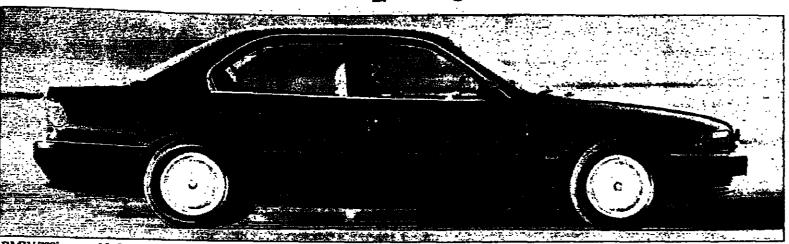
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Impressive company to be seen in



BMW 728i: a notable heavyweight that looks great, and some nifty work on the standard specification list has given it what senior executives expect

have altered the position of the company car as a perk, but sales remain high, writes Stuart Birch.

XJSY12 I

E2750 🍍

"It remains a very good thing to have, says Curtis Hutchinson, editor of Com-pany Car. "In the executive sector of the market, the ratio of company car versus private sales is particularly high, partly because an up-market car is traditionally part of a senior manager's or director's remuneration package but also because executive cars cost a lot of money. Over 90 per cent of Jaguar XJ saloon sales are

■ THE Subaru name might

not be chic. but the car is a

rally winner, so the Legacy (1989-93) offers tremendous

four-wheel-drive grip, huge estates and a devilishly quick

turbo version, reports CAP

Depreciation is higher than

average, although motorsport

success has raised the

marque's profile, helping to

keep used values firm. Deal-

ers are relatively scarce,

slowly. Best buy is the 2-litre

though this is improving

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MERCEDES

ROAD TEST

This area of the market is hard-fought, and BMW has the 728i as a notable heavyweight to contest it. In upperlevel terms, it is what BMW regards as a value-for-money car; it looks great, and some nifty work on the standard specification list (leather seats. auto plus semi-manual gearbox and air-conditioning) has given it what senior executives expect. BMW GB's car produci manager, Simon Crewe, says that although the list price of the arch-rival Jaguar XJ6 3.2 in its cheapest form is some £5,000 less than the BMW 728i Engine 28 litres, 1936hp, rear-wheel Performance:

0-62mph in 9.6 seconds, top speed 140mph. EC combined fuel consumption 25.4mpg. Price: £36,300.

BMW's £36,300, by the time that is given all the goodies the 728i has as standard, the Jaguar costs £800 more. However, car sales people are adept at such arithmetic,

and Jaguar counters by saying the £34,650 XJ6 3.2 Executive has just about everything anyone might need.

But the big BMW is impressive and business buyers are agreeing: at least half sold go to companies. It may give away 400cc in engine capacity to the Jaguar, but nips along quickly enough, even if getting to 62mph in 9.6 seconds is not exactly eye-watering.

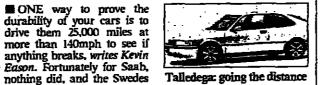
The engine, though, is an aural delight; rev it and it growls lustily, cruise and it just shifts into sotto voce mode. The car comes with a multi-facet gearbox which means a choice of five speed

auto, four-speed sport or five-

speed manual-select clutchless Steptronic. Fuel consumption is excellent, with a mid-20s average and more if you're

Handling is reassuring, the ride a typical BMW mix of firmness with comfort. There are some nice touches - such as spring-loaded roof grab handles that are damped so they don't thump back into place - and some not so nice, such as the skinny steering

The 728i is a big. handsome. mature car with a certain gravitas. But wind up the revs, shove the Selectronic into lower ratios and it will be away on its toes with the best.



All six cars covered 100,000 miles, stopping only for fuel and fresh drivers, with only one problem when a radiator

was holed by a flying stone. The Talledaga celebration range features alloy wheels, special beige and black interior, metallic black, red or silver paints, leather trim and front fog lamps. Prices from £18,350 to £30,950.

SPARE PARTS

MITSUBISHI is reacting to criticism of its bland styling by forming a partnership with Pininfarina to build a new sports utility vehicle (SUV). Due into production in 1999, Pininfarina will build the vehicle, slightly smaller than a Shogun, in Italy to add to Mitsubishi's portfolio of European-manufactured hicles. Engines, both 1.8 and 2litre petrol, will be shipped from Japan with Pininfarina expected to turn out about 35,000 vehicles a year to compete with Land Rover's SUV,

due for launch next year.

SKODA produced a record 263,000 cars last year and is predicting even more with a 30 per cent increase on the cards for 1997 when the new Octavia model joins the Felicia. Britain will not see the Octavia until 1998 — at starting prices around £10,000 while Skoda supplies its fastgrowing markets with left-



hand drive vehicles.

MINI and Cooper are inseparable. So the face-lifted Mini just announced by Rover gets some Cooper magic to raise engine power and speed. John Cooper Garages in Worthing, West Sussex, announced the new cars — the Cooper S Touring and Cooper S Sport 5 — this week. Only 150 cars, priced between £10,995 and £12,995, will be built, complete with engraved and numbered plaque. The 1.3 A-series engines get 35 brake horse power for maximum speeds of almost 100mph, plus new wheels and paint. The Touring S retains the



SEAT CORDOBA

The Cordoba is Sezt's saloon version of the Ibiza halchback The Corpora is Seat's sation version of the Buza halchback super-min. Since becoming part of the sprawing Volkswagen empire, Seat care have been revolutionized with build quality and engines hugely improved. The Cordoba was launched in 1994 and comes with 14, 18, 18, and 2-bits, for colunder petrol engines, as well 1.9-bits, to revolution VMI density of the formation of the control of the cont



BAD NEWS
Watch out for
excessively heavy weer
on the forst types of this
incrit-wheel-drive car,
especially on diesel powered
models where the front wheels
have to handle the diesel engines
heaver weight. Shock absorber's
suffer was no high melanae suffer wear on high mil AVOID The more powerful Cordobas can trace

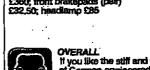


though less well-equipped models might be had for less SAFETY RATING Every Cordoba above the base CSL trim level comes with a driver-side airbag as standard arr' the 2-fitne GT is available with anti-lock brakes. The VW Polo which is the base for the Cordoba regularly tops

INSURANCE Cover from AA Insurance Cover from AA insurance (0900 444777) on a 1994 1.8-fibre Seat Covdoba GLX costs a 55-year-old professional, male or fernale, tiving in Winchester with full no claims bonus, £171 a year fully comprehensive. A 22-year-old male with measure no claims for the Cordoba regularly tops safety ratings for cars of its size male, with one-year no claims living in south London pays £863, and a similar female pays £715

REPLACEMENT PARTS (prices include VAT): Clutch essembly £175; full exhaust £180; set skills essentiates zatalytic converter £360; front brakepads (pair) £32.50; haadiamp £85

PRICES
Expect to pay £6,500
tor a 1995 M-reg
Cordoba 1.4-litre CLS
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1.8-litre GLX; £3,250 for a 1995
N-reg 1.9-litre CDX dissel and
£3,750 for a 1994 L-reg 2.0 GT







If you like the stiff and somewhat unyielding drive and ride of German-engineered cars you will like the Cordoba, which also benefits from the Germanic-derived virtues of durable build quality. Essentially a VW with somebody elsa's badge on, bringing with it all the strengths of VW, why pay more for the "real" thing? Especially when most Cordobas should still have time left on the treatment wateraty.

DAY PUBRUARY

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FORECOURT

turbo estate: an average mileage 1993 L-reg car should cost around £12,000.

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■ The Vauxhall Nova (1983-93) is simple, economical, easy

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to sell and to live with. But the ride is harsh, boot small and trim plasticky. The 1.2 and 1.4litre cars and five-door models are most sought-after, though the 1.5-litre turbodiesel is also popular. Pay up to £3,500 for a low-mileage

1990 H-reg three-door. The SRI and GTE are hard riding and often expensive to buy and insure. Colours such as moss green and china blue destroy values. Beware fuel pump failure, interior water leaks and camshaft noise.

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nothing did, and the Swedes are celebrating with a range of special edition 900 models. The Talledega Challenge was a unique test, with Saab

breaking 40 international speed records on the world's fastest raceway at Talledega, Alabama. A 900 2.0 Turbo coupé - one of six cars on the track - drove flat out for the 25,000 miles averaging 140.7mph, equivalent to going around the world in 72 days.

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Used Cars

A bit of this and a bit of that

However exclusive your car may be, some of its components have almost certainly been borrowed from much humbler models.

Vaughan Freeman explains how manufacturers mix and match



Aston Martin's DB7 has rear lights from the Mazda 323F.





. . . and switches usually seen on Jaguars and Fords

ome say the Lamborghini Diablo and McLaren Fl are among the most beautiful, and certainly the most striking-looking, cars on the road. In fact, they literally look like the back end of a bus.

Controversial? No. just blunt fact. The Fl is a handbuilt hi-tech missile that costs £534,500 and tops 230mph. The Diablo is a snip by comparison at £150,000 and a slouch at 200mon, But, desnite their purpose-built charisma, both cars use rear lights borrowed from the back of a Bova coach, the sort of machine usually seen trundling along our motorways at 60mph full of yelling

schoolchildren. Motorists might delude themselves that carmakers. large and small, design and build from scratch every single piece of their cars. The trend increasingly is to mix and match components from the "parts bins" of other carmakers — a door handle here, a wing mirror there - to

So if you cannot drum up £60,000 for a Lotus Esprit twodoor coupe, you could spend decidedly less for a part of the car by parking an Astra or Vauxhall Carlton on your drive. The Esprit uses switchgear from the Astra and door handles from the Carlton.

offered by the TVR Chimaera. a £30,000 sports car capable of 150mph and more, you could instead invest in a £4,000 second-hand Ford Fiesta, from which the Chimaera uses rear lights. TVR also borrowed the lights of the now defunct Vauxhali Cavalier for its 161mph, E35,000 Griffith. which are used upside down. Among the most popular borrowed items are the door mirrors from the Cîtroën CX, a striking design used on cars from Aston Martin, TVR and

save time and money.

on the hugely expensive Jag-Indeed, Aston Martin is one of the big borrowers. One of the cars causing the greatest For a taste of the lifestyle stir has been Aston's new DB7. a speciacularly pretty £82,500 machine capable of close to 160mph. The Aston Martin owner buys the cars because they are different, unique. hand-built one-offs. So why does the DB7 feature rear lights from the Mazda 323F.

> Mazda MX-5 sportscar, which cost around a fifth the price of the DB7? Former Aston Martin chairman Walter Hayes always

switches usually seen on Jag-

uar and Ford cars, and interi-

or door handles from the

enthused about the role that Aston's parent company Ford played in enabling the tiny Newport Pagnell firm to adopt airbag technology from Ford at a fraction of the cost it would have taken for Aston to do the job itself. Aston also has access to the Mazda parts bin

through the Japanese firm's close links with Ford. Aston Martin executive chairman David Price, who was at Ford for more than 30 years before moving to Aston. believes that companies like his own can draw on the larger scale benefits of bigger companies without compromising the quality or identity

of their cars. The Ford background has

been invaluable and the company would no longer be here without Ford, and that is going to be more the case in future." he says "We have got to stand on our own two feet, but that does not mean we will not be able to get assistance from any new technologies Ford has developed."

ne example is the adoption for the DB7 of Ford's EEC5 electronic enmanagement system: That is how we can use Ford's corporate technology without in any way destroying the character of the product." It works both ways. When

Ford wanted to try out in-car

navigation systems, they were first trialled in Aston Martins. Ford found it more costeffective to mount the test systems in the bespoke Astons than fit the units to blue oval cars, which would have involved expensive alterations to

Ford production lines. Price says: There is going to be an increasing exchange of componentry between manufacturers, and the small wholly-owned subsidiaries, the Aston Martins and the Jaguars, are going to be a piece of that, sharing basic Ford development and basic Ford

parts. "But I don't think that has to influence in any way the overall character of the car. It

is the vehicle engineering that gives the product the character. It doesn't really matter that you are borrowing a transaxle. You can borrow a lot without compromising your traditional marque and

heritage." This is the key. Small, exotic car companies which build only a few hundred vehicles a year simply cannot afford to develop every aspect of their car themselves. Even Rolls-Royce, charging from £100,000 for its cars, uses an engine based around an old American design and various

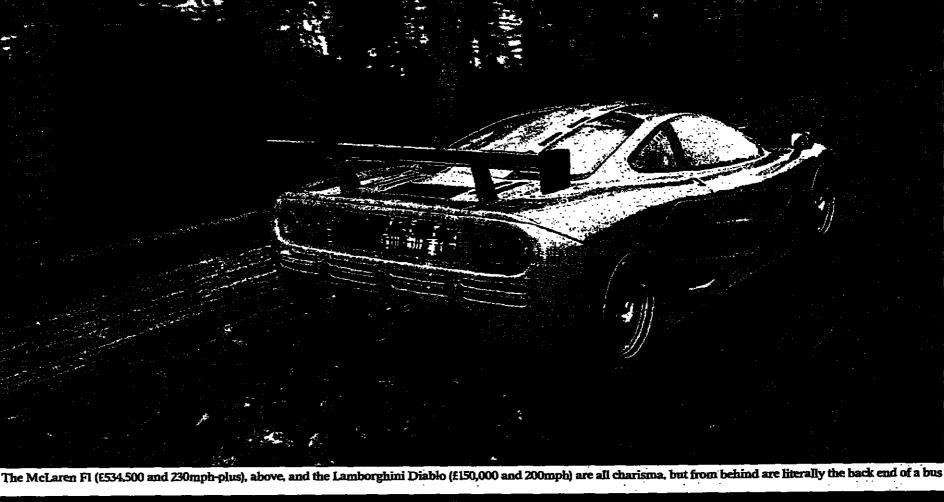
electronic parts from BMW. Designing and tooling-up to produce a set of rear lights

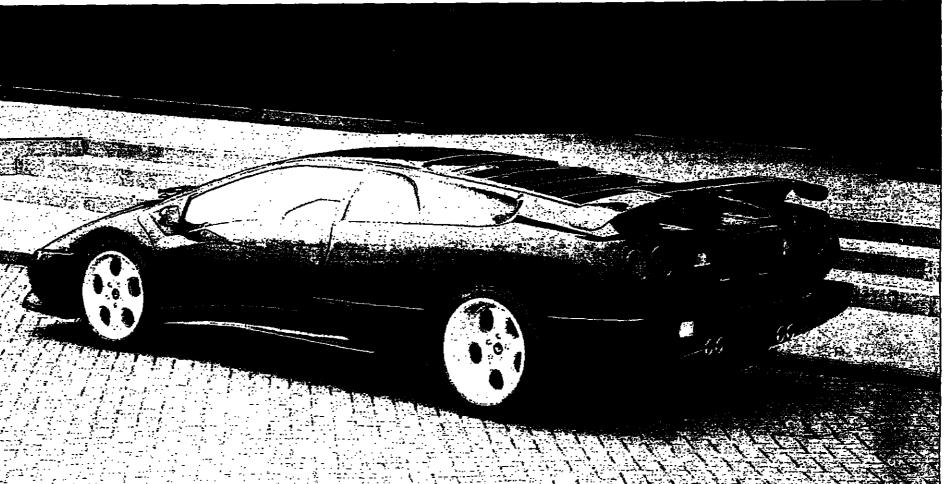
might cost a firm such as

ers also have to pay to get type approval for their vehicles as tested by the Vehicle Certification Agency. If another manufacturer has already picked up that bill for having the compo-

nent checked on another car, huge sums can be saved.

The trick is for the smaller manufacturers to adopt the mass produced items in a way that does not compromise their own cars. At the same time, those few customers who do realise that they have seen the switchgear on their £60,000 car on a £7,000 ronabout, should realise that a volume car part is likely to be just as well designed and built as the rest of their vehicle.





Aston Martin owners don't just want their cars restoring, they want them the way they were. Ian Morton reports

The joke started when the owner of a fraving DB4 said he wanted such an absolutely accurate restoration that he could smell the

Sixties.
"I want," he told Aston Martin, "to be able to breathe wet duffel coats and damp brogues when I get into the

The company rose to the challenge. "You bring the duffel coat and we'll wear the brogues," he was told. He did, everyone enjoyed the moment, and the car was rebuilt using the latest technology but. wherever possible, employing period methods - body panels produced with the original formers, dollies and soft-faced hammers, for instance, and gas-welded rather than tigwelded together. And when the owner came to collect his car he found period magazines and a couple of packets of Woodbines in the cabin for good measure.

"Getting out the Woodhas become a workshop expression at Newport Pagnell. It sums up the determination that an Aston

The Woodbines that can cost you £100,000

Martin rebuilt there will be as authentic as possible, commensurate with modern engineering and anti-corrosion standards, says service and restoration executive Kingsley

Riding-Felce. Nothing less would be appropriate. When a marque has a proud history and fine examples from yesteryear command respect wherever they appear, originality becomes a sacred trust. And with its 75th anniversary due next year, a record of circuit successes that included a 1-2 at Le Mans and a recent past that has whirled all the way from the brink of extinction to a triumphant resurgence under the wing of one of the world's great companies, Aston Martin is surely one of those

Servicing and restoring older Astons remains a core activity with a workforce of 81 and an annual turnover of more than 15 million. There are never fewer than 90 cars going through the department, many belonging to members of one of motoring's most devout groups, the 5,000strong Aston Martin Owners' Club, who between them run 8,500 cars.

Servicing and restoration is now being integrated with the manufacturing process, handling customers special requirements on new cars so that the "works prepared"



The DB4GT Zagato: all 19 that were built survive and today can be worth up to £lm

label will assure a devotee that anything from a straightforward service or MoT inspection to full race preparation, individual bodywork on a new model or restoration of a cherished possession has been carried out to an irreproach-

able standard. Projections for the department foresee steady growth and more than Eb million turnover by the turn of the decade as more purchasers of

variations which the company is offering, says Riding-Felce. The more we offer, the more people seem to want. Two owners have asked for shooting-brake bodies on V8 coupés, for instance, and we have lots of ideas coming up

"But we do say that an Aston Martin is a car for life and many customers want conversions on the cars they already have - manual to automatic

for special versions.

older, for instance, and from left-hand drive to right for people bringing their cars to Britain and the other way round for owners gong to live abroad. We often revitalise cars that have been in the family for years and have become a bit tired — cars belonging to fathers which are

passing to sons." With full restoration a regular requirement, bills for more than £100,000 are routine. The owner of the DB4GT Zagato

MARTIN'S 1913 HILL START

■ ASTON MARTIN was founded by Lionel Martin, who built his first special in 1913 after several years selling and racing Singers. The first part of the name came from the Aston Clinton hill climb in Buckinghamshire.

■ More than 75 per cent of all Aston Martins made are still running. To mark the Diamond Jubilee of the Aston Martin Owners' Club in 1995, one of its older members. Tom May, aged 80, drove 80 miles in 80 minutes in his 1952 DB2.

■ The company has had at least ten owners in its history, but its greatest racing successes came between 1947 and 1972 when it was owned by tractor-maker David Brown.

who also bought Lagonda in 1947. ■ In 1959 an Aston Martin DBR2 won the Le Mans-24-hour endurance race and the company became the first UK maker to win the World Sports Car Constructors' Championship. Ford, which paid between £15m and £20m (an exact figure was never disclosed) for Aston Martin in 1987, has since pumped £200m into DB7 development and production.

pictured went to Newport Pagnell to discuss "a bit of refurbishment" and ended up ordering an as-original reconstruction that will cost well into three figures, not mordinately high when a Zagato -19 were made and all survive - is worth anything from E500,000 to El million-plus according to its competition

Meanwhile, tomorrow's classics are being made in addition to the DB7, Aston

continues to produce its big V8 Virage and Vantage models. Half sell in Britain, the rest scatter among wealthy connoisseurs around the globe. These are built solely to order -77 were finished last year, 42 of them high-performance

Vantage models. They are an ultimate car pression of character and elegance and I dely anyone to say one," says executive distri

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Another great British marque has died, but it has a suitably sumptuous memorial, says Alan Copps

Closing the book on Lagonda

bought by a VIP from Kuwait". Ordered by a dealer but never sold, together with two others it had waited seven years to find a home.

fronically, it was the nouncement that Aston Martin. which owns the Lagonda name, had abandoned plans to build a successor model, the 12-cylinder Vignale, that prompted the sale of the last three cars.

And so another famous British carmaker passes into history, but not without an extraordinarily lavish fanfare. The story of the company and its progress from powered cycles to Le Mans racers and opulent sporting limousines, from ground-breaking manufacturer to the brink of bankruptcy, many times over, is told in comprehensive detail in Lagonda, a superbly illustrated book by the German enthusiast Bernd Holthusen. Published as a limited edition by Palawan Press, it costs £275, or for one of just 50 leather-bound copies, £750.

Lagonda chalked up its fair share of "firsts" in car development and design, its racing successes were legion and its reputation for quality and excellence at one time rivalled that of Rolls-Royce or Bentley. It was to Lagonda that W.O. Bentley moved after his own company was taken over by Rolls-Royce, and his last engine design for Lagonda went with the company when it in turn was taken over by David Brown in 1947 and powered Aston Martins to many racing successes.

Bentley arrived in 1935, the year Lagonda scored its greatest vic-tory on the track, a 4.5-litre model winning the Le Mans 24-hour endurance race just two days before the deadline for enforced sale of the company. While there he perfected its most famous model, the LG 45 Rapide and designed the V12 engine which went into the last pre-war Lagondas, the supercars of their era.



Even the Lagonda's advertising was a work of art: from a 1936 brochure for the LG 45





The Vignale concept car, the Lagonda that never was, left, and the last of the legendary line

settlement beside a river in Ohio, the birthplace in 1859 of Wilbur Gunn who worked in the sewing machine industry, but whose first love was

Nothing known for certain of what happened to his wife Bertha, whom he divorced in 1898, or why he came to England. The assumption persists that Wilbur wanted to perfect his voice as an opera singer in London," says Holthusen.

would have been duller if he had succeeded. In the unlikely Thameside setting of Staines, Middlesex, Gunn set up the Lagonda company and dea tiny engine to fit to his the Red Indian name for a push-bike, moving on to motor-

cycles and tri-cars. In 1913 the company survived bankruptcy for the second time to produce the most significant innovation of its history. The

ii.lhp car was the first anywhere to use an integral body/chassis structure. Not until the mid-1920s did Lancia in Italy emulate this technique, now the norm for cars Gunn died in 1921, but

the company's cars con-Wilbur

tinued to boast innovations such as an The automotive world aluminium dashboard, fail-safe brakes, dipping headlamps, pre-selector gearboxes and in the close-coupled saloon bodywork, fold-down vnich gave it "honeymoon special".

Bankruptcy played another crucial part in the company's history in 1933 when the Invicta car company went bust just as Lagonda was looking for a 4.5litre engine. It adopted the Mead-ows engine used by Invicta and exploited it in the Le Mans winning car and the LG 45 Rapide. The immediate pre-war years were a golden age when it produced superb cars, many of which are still on the road.

Despite the Aston Martin takeover, the post-war years were an anti-climax. Now Ford, which owns Aston Martin, has decided that the cost of reviving what is now a largely-forgotten marque is too great and might jeopardise the success of Aston Martin. Aston Martin itself produced 661 total in its history.

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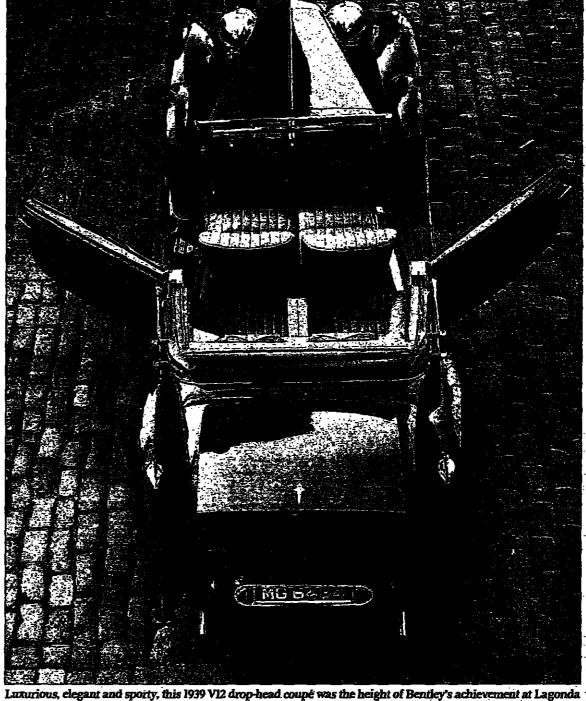
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